

Testimony of Linda Lumsden

March 19, 2015

To the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

Re SB 710

Good afternoon, Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Olsen, Members of the Committee.

My name is Linda Lumsden and I am here to speak in support of SB 710.

In 2010, my foster son Jason applied for disability benefits. Jason was severely abused between the ages of 2 and 7. He became my foster son at age 11.

Unfortunately, the abuse took its toll and Jason was never able to graduate from high school or attain a GED. He could not hold a job due to his diagnosed ^{multiple mental health} ~~borderline intellectual abilities, bipolar disorder,~~ ^{which sometimes manifested themselves in} anger outbursts, and inability to concentrate or keep up. He lost his case at his first hearing but the case was sent back for a new hearing.

Because Jason's recent medical treatment had taken place in California, we were able to obtain all of his medical records at no cost and provide them to the court.

If Jason had been required to pay for any records, medical or otherwise, that were relevant to his case he would not have been able to do so given his lack of financial resources. I don't think he would have been approved as he finally was in his new hearing.

I don't think anyone should be unable to pursue a disability claim because they can't afford to pay for medical records that would serve as evidence in the case. I'm glad that Oregon is considering legislation that California already has in place, that helped my foster son win his case.

I urge you to support SB 710.

Thank you.

was exposed to drugs and alcohol prenatally and

diagnoses and cognitive deficits

Jason ██████, case #1140543

2010, he is presently enrolled in a two year program with Vocational Rehabilitation in Susanville.

Jason's diagnoses

Jason ██████ suffers from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, with frequent nightmares that have overwhelming fear, terrible smells and feelings of being held down. Mr. ██████ states that these nightmares "take a lot of me." He suffers from Anxiety, especially in the work place, Depression and fear of failure, or of losing all he is trying to build in his life. He struggles with Intermittent Explosive Disorder, Hallucinatory Voices that appear to be due to a Dissociative Disorder from early childhood, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, ADHD and a Learning Disability.

The WAIS-3 indicates that the claimant is measuring in the Low Average and Borderline Mental Retardation Range, with a wide scatter in subscale scores between 4 and 10, indicating Organic Brain Disorder. On the WMS-3 he is measuring in the Borderline Mental Retardation Range, with 2 Memory Index Scores dropping into the Mild Mental Retardation Range. Trails A and B indicate Moderate Brain Impairment.

The claimant does not appear to be capable of maintaining employment at this time, due to his Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, his Anxiety, Depression, Intermittent Explosive Disorder, Auditory Hallucinations, and his Learning Disability, which may be due to ADHD or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. He does not appear capable of maintaining appropriate responses to supervisors, coworkers or the public -without kind, understanding supervision, due to these same above disorders. Mr. ██████ does not appear capable of working 40 hours a week, even on a simple, repetitive job, at this time, due to these same above disorders.

Jason ██████ is capable of handling his own money. If there is information to the contrary that I am not aware of, then an agency would be best handling his funds for him.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine A. McCausland, PhD
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