



VIDEO: Violent Abduction of Santa Cruz Children Spurs National Protests to “Free Maya & Sebastian” from Dr. Lynn Steinberg’s Dangerous Threat Therapy in LA

San Rafael, CA - Disturbing video footage of two Santa Cruz children begging for protection before their violent abduction to a Los Angeles-based “threat-therapy program” that was also caught on film has spurred protests across the country to free the two siblings. The Center for Judicial Excellence, MetooMoms.org, CJE Youth Speak, parents of abused children from across Southern California, and other domestic violence and child abuse advocates will hold a Los Angeles protest Friday to demand the immediate return of child abuse survivors Maya and Sebastian Laing to their safe father. The two minor children were abducted from Santa Cruz on October 20th and court-ordered into the abusive custody of Dr. Lynn Steinberg in the Mid-Wilshire neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Before the legal kidnapping, 15-year-old Maya bravely uploaded heartbreaking videos to Instagram, giving her address and begging the public to come protect them from being forcibly removed from their safe family, their school, their friends, and their community. [Click here for her videos](#). Transporters from **Assisted Interventions Inc.** and Santa Cruz police violently removed 15-yr-old Maya and 11-yr-old Sebastian Laing from their safe relative’s home by order of **Santa Cruz County Family Court Judge Rebecca Connolly**. These innocent, and scared children were forced into a car and driven to Los Angeles to be sequestered with the mother they’ve reported as abusive. The program isolates and threatens children, forcing them to recant their lived experience of child abuse if they ever want to see their friends or safe parent again. [Linked here is a partial video of this court-ordered abduction](#)- **WARNING- it is highly upsetting disturbing footage and contains a violent confrontation with abusive authorities and references to child abuse**. Email CJE if you would like a copy of the full 5-minute video.

This protest is in solidarity with another Rally to Free Maya and Sebastian in Northern California, which is being held the same day at the Watsonville Courthouse. It is being organized by local friends of Maya and Sebastian, more information can be found at @maya.and.sebastian on Instagram or #justiceformayaandsebastian. Additionally, activists in numerous other states are planning solidarity protests.

CJE-sponsored **Senate Bill 616** (Sen. Susan Rubio- D-Baldwin Park) would have clarified California’s existing ban on these programs, but in late August 2022 the California Judicial Council killed the legislation, after it had passed unanimously through the State Assembly. Senator Rubio has vowed to reintroduce the bill when the Legislature reconvenes for their next session.

WHAT: “Free Maya & Sebastian!” Rally, March & Protest

WHEN: 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28, 2022

WHERE: **Rally at Eastern Korean Church Parking Lot, 4270 W 6th St. Los Angeles, CA 90020**
Followed by a March to Protest in front of Dr. Lynn Steinberg’s Office, 538 S. Wilton Place

(Steinberg’s court-ordered threat therapy of minor children occurs here)

WHO: Kathleen Russell, Founding Executive Director of CJE
Child survivors of the emotional torture of family-court ordered reunification camps
Parents of children who have been forced into harmful reunification camps
Parents who have lost contact with their children as punishment for reporting their abuse

Visuals: Picket Signs, Reunification Camp Survivors & Speakers

~ The nonprofit Center for Judicial Excellence was founded in California 16 years ago to be a voice for vulnerable children and a catalyst for child safety in state capitols and in Washington, D.C. They are committed to protecting child abuse and domestic violence survivors in our nation’s family courts and to fostering accountability throughout the entire judicial branch ~