JUVENILE COURT CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER STATE OF COLORADO 2 1437 Bannock St., Room 157 Denver, CO 80202 4 IN THE INTEREST OF: CASE NO. 08JV141 5 DIVISION 2 PETITIONER: 6 ROBERT MANZANARES V. 8 9 RESPONDENT: CARIE TERRY 10 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT 11 12 The hearing in this matter commenced on 13 Monday, September 8, 2008, before the HONORABLE D. 14 15 BRETT WOODS, Judge of the Denver Juvenile Court. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25



1 MORNING SESSION, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

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(The following proceedings were had and entered of record:)

THE COURT: Just a moment. We'll be on the record in 2008JV141. If parties who are present at this time would just enter their appearances, please. Just tell me your name.

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Carie Terry.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MS. BERKELEY: Good morning. Emily Berkeley on behalf of the Petitioner Mr. Manzanares who is here beside me and my colleague Dave Osborne.

THE COURT: All right. Very well. Thank

you. This is here today -- we'll be making a phone

call in just a moment. Filed with me has been a

Verified Petition for Allocation of Parental

Responsibilities. Also there has been an objection to

that. I have received both of those documents, and

I've had a chance to read those.

There also has been a request that I consult with the judge in Utah because there's a related case in Utah on that. And I'm going to grant that request to go ahead and get in touch with -- sorry, I believe it's Judge Faust; is that right?

MS. BERKELEY: Yes, Your Honor, that is

correct, and if the Court would take note Vivian Burgos the Guardian Ad Litem also entered the courtroom.

MS. BURGOS: Good morning.

THE COURT: Oh good, Ms. Burgos is here as the Guardian Ad Litem, and then I understand there would be some other people that are going to be listening in by phone or participating, and who are those people?

RESPONDENT MOTHER: That would be Larry Jenkins the lawyer for -- representing the baby -- adoptive parents.

THE COURT: All right. Is he on the phone now or --

THE COURT: Okay. Very good.

RESPONDENT MOTHER: He'll be in the courtroom, yeah.

MS. BERKELEY: Judge, Jennifer Reyes

Mr. Manzanares's Utah counsel is going to be

conferencing here I guess because she was unable to

get to the court in time. She just notified me this

is occurring so -- or she was allowed to participate,

so she's going to be listening in. My understanding

is neither attorney -- Judge Faust has ordered neither 1 attorney may participate or say anything; they can 2 3 just listen. That's fine. All right. Let's 4 THE COURT: 5 go ahead and make the phone calls then. 6 (Calling and getting Judge Faust and Ms. 7 Reyes on the line.) 8 JUDGE FAUST: Good morning. This is Judge 9 Faust. 10 THE CLERK: Good morning, Judge Faust. This is the clerk for Judge Woods. We need a second to get 11 12 Ms. Reyes on the line. Can you hold a moment? 13 THE COURT: Can you hear us? 14 JUDGE FAUST: Yes, we can. We have 15 Mr. Byington and Mr. Jenkins in my courtroom as well 16 and we're on the record. 17 THE CLERK: Just a moment. 18 THE COURT: Sir -- sir, just so you -- hi. 19 Good morning. This is Judge Woods. I can hardly hear 2.0 you. 21 JUDGE FAUST: Mr. Jenkins, if you want to 22 come over closer, welcome to. That way everybody can 23 hear. Is that a little better? THE COURT: That's better. So make this 24 25 other call to try to get ahold of this other attorney.

1 2 3 MS. REYES: 4 THE CLERK: 5 6 Faust? Ms. Reyes? 7 8 THE CLERK: Okav. 9 JUDGE FAUST: 10 Mr. Byington. 11 12 13 14 15 16 child, Ms. Vivian Burgos. 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

We'll be right with you. It will be just a moment. JUDGE FAUST: All right. Thank vou. This is Jennifer. Hi, Ms. Reyes. Juvenile Court again in Denver. Let me get the judge back -- Judge MS. REYES: Yes, I'm here. We have Mr. Jenkins and THE COURT: All right. Well, good morning, judge. It's nice to meet you, and here in Denver we have Ms. Terry and Mr. Manzanares is here along with his attorney and also the Guardian Ad Litem that I or the magistrate I should say had appointed for the JUDGE FAUST: Thank you. THE COURT: And thank you for agreeing to take my call here today. I was requested to call you by counsel for Mr. Manzanares to consult with you as is called for by the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act. I understand there is still an adoption matter pending in Utah and that -- that particular law does not apply in adoption 25 cases. Nonetheless, it applies in our paternity case

so that is the reason for the call.

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And I just had some questions and I would be happy to answer any questions that you have as well.

I guess do you have an update on what the status is of the Utah adoption at this point, judge?

JUDGE FAUST: Well, my understanding of it is there has been a request to our Court of Appeals to take an interlocutory appeal on my decision to set aside the consent of the natural mother. I don't know what the status any further of that is. Maybe Mr. Jenkins can address that if he has any other information.

MR. JENKINS: I don't have any further information. Trying to -- it was actually a petition for both the extraordinary writ and permission to appeal the interlocutory order. The time for response has not come yet so I doubt we'll see anything from the Court of Appeals at least for the next few days until the response time has past.

THE COURT: Does anyone know when -- of course we can never guess what the Court of Appeals is going to do -- when they would typically decide if they're going to take this case or not? Would -- would a decision be pretty quick I would expect?

MR. JENKINS: My experience with

interlocutory appeals they do rule fairly quickly within a week after all the briefing is in on the issue. They typically rule quite quickly. I had one last year and they ruled within -- within a few days after the time expired.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Judge, my understanding is that you vacated the natural mother's consent and so that has been set aside at this point. Who has -- is there a legal custody order for the child in Utah at this time?

JUDGE FAUST: Yes. We left the temporary custody order that was issued in place with the child remaining with the potential adopting parents.

THE COURT: Okay. And I guess -- maybe it's getting a little bit ahead of ourselves, but what happens if this becomes a failed adoption? What would you be doing then next?

JUDGE FAUST: Well, as I understand it, under Utah law there is a portion of our section that indicates that if an adoption petition is not approved, then the Utah Court has the determination to make as to what is in the best interests of the child and enter any orders with respect to custody determinations between the two natural parents.

I don't know if that solely relates to

parents who are Utah residents or what the impact of that statute is as it would relate in this case with both parents -- natural parents being residents of Colorado and so forth.

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But I think Mr. Jenkins' position when we have spoken previously on that -- and I'll let him change his position if I misrepresent something inaccurately -- I think Mr. Jenkins' advocating or arguing Utah courts must go ahead in that case and still make a determination of what is in the best interests of the child rather than deferring the matter back over to the Colorado courts.

Mr. Jenkins, is that an accurate summary?

MR. JENKINS: I believe so, Your Honor. Our
Supreme Court has modified the statute just slightly
in the case of a failed adoption. That the best
interest determination made by the Court after that is
a temporary custody decision, so in that kind of a
case that is what would happen would be simply a
temporary custody order that the Court would enter,
and then I'm assuming -- I don't know, I haven't
researched this -- but I'm assuming at that point then
as far as a permanent custody decision that could go
back to Colorado, but the way the statute reads there
is a temporary decision that needs to be made.

THE COURT: Okay. And I did a little bit of research and found -- I don't have it in front of me or the name, but I found some Utah Supreme Court case that seemed to go along with what you just said, Mr. Jenkins. Let me ask, Judge Faust, do you have any questions you want to ask me?

JUDGE FAUST: No. I believe I am just fine.

THE COURT: Okay. Here's what I'm trying to

figure out on things. I mean it seems fairly clear to me under the Uniform Act that Utah would be the home state of this child and that's just the plain language of the Act. Having said that, there are some — there are two ways Utah could decline jurisdiction under the Uniform Act. One would be to determine that Utah is an inconvenient forum, and the second would be to determine that there had been unjustifiable conduct, and in this case that would have been unjustifiable conduct by the natural mother.

And based on at least what I know the state of the evidence is and the record, and we've taken very little evidence here in Colorado, but -- but based on the state of the case right now, there would be a basis for a Utah court to decline jurisdiction on either grounds, inconvenient forum or unjustifiable conduct, but at least my understanding of the Act is

is that is Utah's call to make.

In other words, it's sort of a right of first refusal, if you will, and if Utah makes that decision, then it can come back to me, but until Utah makes that decision, I think the matter is in Utah.

Judge Faust, do you have any thoughts on that?

JUDGE FAUST: Well, I think you're right in that regard, and that's what I was raising in the first issue is I don't know if I need to go through and make that temporary custody order determination first and then apply the statute so that all subsequent jurisdictional issues beyond the temporary custody order that Mr. Jenkins and I spoke of are handled in Colorado or whether I'm permitted to go ahead and make a ruling under the statute prior to making that best interests test as the statute says I need to do. I simply don't know the answer at this point in time.

So to me the direction that I was going to go was simply to wait to see what the Court of Appeals does and then that would determine exactly whether the next proceeding would be in my court or whether we would need to continue to stay on hold.

THE COURT: Let me ask you this, judge,

would you be the judge that makes that determination 1 in terms of either inconvenient forum or unjustifiable 2 conduct or would that be someone else? 3 I believe it's me. JUDGE FAUST: 4 Mr. Jenkins, do you have any different opinion of 5 6 that? MR. JENKINS: I don't know the answer to 7 that to be honest. 8 JUDGE FAUST: I would take a look at the 9 statute as well and may change your mind, but my 10 understanding is is I guess I'm the one with the 11 custody of the child temporarily --12 THE COURT: Okay. 13 JUDGE FAUST: -- here so --14 THE COURT: And the only reason I ask that, 15 again the Uniform Custody Act does not apply to 16 adoptions; however, it does apply to my case, but I 17 also understand there's a custody issue as well in 18 Utah, so I guess that's ultimately your decision. 19 Well, I can tell you what I've been thinking 20 of doing and happy to hear any comments, but my 21 thinking was is that I was going to be directing the 22 parties here in Colorado to seek an answer from Utah 23 as to whether Utah is going to exercise home state 24

jurisdiction or not. If Utah decides to exercise home

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state jurisdiction, as far as I can tell, I'm done, but if Utah decides not to exercise home state jurisdiction because of either inconvenient forum or unjustifiable conduct, then I'm not done, so I was going to direct our parties here to seek that answer from Utah.

The second thing I was contemplating doing is ordering the Guardian Ad Litem that I've appointed for the minor child in this case to investigate the natural parents here in Colorado and to the extent that she can investigate the parents or the potential adoptive parents in Utah so that if I need to have a hearing I have someone who is prepared to make recommendations to me.

She can make her recommendations either as an officer of the court or can be called to testify is my understanding in Colorado and the parties would have to figure that out. I would probably set some type of an evidentiary hearing. Whether I would actually hold it or not depends on what happens in Utah, but at least I would have the day set aside and, you know, if it comes that I need to do something, I can do it. If not, I cannot do it or I can just continue to wait.

Judge Faust, what -- how does that sound to

you?

JUDGE FAUST: I think from your position I think those are two reasonable options for you to go ahead and exercise. I do think ultimately the determinations of some of these issues have to be made by this Court.

more. And I want to be very clear I'm not trying to step on the toes of my sister jurisdiction in Utah. As I said, based on my understanding it's kind of your call and you have the right of first refusal for lack of a better way of putting it in Utah. I think before obviously I'm going to be doing anything we're going to wait to see what the Court of Appeals does on this interlocutory appeal, and then I'm in a position to know whether we have a green light to go forward or need to hold pending the appeal. Correct? Okay.

Well, I guess the other thing, I can probably go ahead and make this finding, and I'll do this after we hang up, but certainly based on the order that you have written and then the order that — in the course of proceedings that have happened here in Colorado, I think there's certainly a preliminary finding that I can make that the mother's conduct at least here in Colorado was also unjustifiable based on

really the undisputed evidence that was in the record 1 that no one has disputed here, which is that when she 2 contacted the Colorado court for the continuance in 3 February, she didn't let us know she had already given 4 5 birth to the child. We didn't know she was moments away from signing the consent and so on, and I don't 6 think anybody has disagreed with that, so with that, 7 I'll probably be entering that type of finding as 8 9 well. But I think that's about all I can do at 10 this point. 11 JUDGE FAUST: Well, thank you. I appreciate 12 it very much. Yeah, if you want to have the parties, 13 you know, direct them to make a request from the 14 Court, I'll -- as far as whether or not we're going to 15 exercise home state control, we'll have to just look 16 at that issue and have it briefed and we'll decide it. 17 THE COURT: All right. Again thank you for 18 talking to me. Any questions from me or anything at 19 2.0 all? JUDGE FAUST: I don't think anything. Thank 21 22 vou very much. Thank you, judge. We're going THE COURT: 23 to hang up at this point. 24

JUDGE FAUST: Thank you.

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(Disconnected the call.)

THE COURT: All right.

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Your Honor, if I may.

THE COURT: Hold on just a second. All right. Let me make a record now that we've ended the phone call between this Court and the individuals in Utah and then so we're just back on the record here with Ms. Terry and Mr. Manzanares and, Ms. Terry, you wanted to say something?

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Yes. Your Honor, I just wanted to say a couple of things. Regarding the court findings that I had unjustifiable conduct, there's no statute that says that I have to address the Court and let them know what I'm doing in another state. A paternity proceeding -- petition was filed here in court to state Mr. Manzanares was the father which was not disputed he was the father. In other words, that there was no proceeding, there was no petition, there was no anything else.

And like to ask the Court why the Court has not thought or asked on the misconduct of Mr.

Manzanares and his counsel, the continual lies they have presented in their documents, the reason that if he knew without a shadow of a doubt I was going to give birth in Utah and place the child for adoption

why he didn't file with Utah laws -- why he did not comply with Utah laws. He knew 20 to 30 days before I gave birth. Why the Court has not addressed those issues. Why the Court has not addressed the lies they have told about me in the documents.

I'm just trying to figure out why the Court has not addressed these issues and not looked at the statutes that I under no law or circumstance needed to let the Court know that I had given birth.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. All right. I've heard from that and -- hold on just a minute here. All right. Well, the case was set originally for a hearing in this court on February 20th and actually it was in the magistrate's division. And again the minute order reflects that on that date there was a call that had been made to the court in the Clerk's Office stating from the Respondent mother that she was out of town.

Apparently the Court contacted her on the phone number listed on the pleadings, and again it was undisputed at that time that she did not inform the Court that she had given birth to the child; that she had given birth to the child in Utah; that she was on that day prepared to sign and in fact did go ahead and sign a consent giving up her rights to the child and

consenting to the adoption of the child in Utah, and the Court does find that was material information that did need to be disclosed to this Court because pending before this Court was the paternity action, also the request for injunctive relief, and that is material information that a party should disclose to the Court.

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RESPONDENT MOTHER: But Your Honor is -- there is a statute saying --

THE COURT: Ma'am, I'm making a ruling at this point so please let me make my ruling. So the Court does find that the mother was under an obligation to notify the Court and that obligation was as a duty of candor to the Court as a litigant in a case which all parties have a duty to be candid with the Court when they are a litigant in the case. That information was not disclosed to the Court. Had it been disclosed to the Court, the Court or the magistrate may have taken action differently than she did and it may have been referred to the judicial division quicker than it was.

Therefore, the Court does agree with the Court in Utah that the mother's conduct to the Court was unjustifiable and so finds.

Court further directs the parties at this time to seek an answer from the Utah courts as to

whether Utah is going to exercise home state jurisdiction because it is Utah's call as to whether or not it will exercise home state jurisdiction. Utah can do that, and if Utah does that, then there is nothing further for me to do. If Utah does not exercise home state jurisdiction based on either inconvenient forum, unjustifiable conduct, or by some action of either the Utah Court of Appeals or State Supreme Court in Utah with respect to the adoption, then, you know, the case may come back here.

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But in the meantime the question is still with the courts in Utah. Pending the answer and operating in I think a spirit of caution and planning, I am going to direct the Guardian Ad Litem to conduct an investigation of the parents here in Colorado of the mother and of the father and also of the Byingtons in Utah because this Court may, and I don't know if it will, but this Court may at some point be in a position of having to enter orders under our Children's Code.

And quite frankly the decision of whether this Court will ever be in a position to enter orders under our Children's Code is not going to be decided here, it's going to be decided in Utah, but if Utah decides it comes back to me, then I will be ready to

proceed. If Utah decides it does not come back to me, then that's that.

Then the other final thing I would remind the parties is that if I do have to make a decision on what best serves the best interests of the child, that is what I will be looking at, and it will be under our Children's Code, which is Title 19 not Title 14 is what the party's motion was filed under, but under Title 19, the Children's Code.

And let me put this out there, it certainly would not be sufficient for the parties to come in and just say, well, because the mother had done somethings that she ought not to have done that the child should automatically be placed with the father.

That's not what the law says. Law would be a best interests of the child determination, and I'm going to have to weigh those factors under the statute for either the mother, the father, or potentially even the Byingtons. And I will do so in a way that I hope is faithful to the statute and our laws.

Any clarification requested from the parties on my orders?

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Just a question, would the Children's Code be Title 19 for Colorado and Utah? Would they be the same?

THE COURT: I don't really know the answer to that question. All I can do is to keep up on Colorado, so in Colorado it's Title 19, the Children's Code. What it is in Utah, I couldn't begin to tell you.

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Okay.

MS. BERKELEY: Your Honor, I just have a question. So should the -- once the determination is made under Title 14, the UCCJEA, that title is done, we're moving to Title 19?

Sort of overlays all of this and this is the consulting thing that happens between me and Utah. If Utah, as I understand it, would say it comes back to me and then I enter orders, then you take those orders to Utah and you have them enforced in Utah. And that can include a pick-up order, which you've been trying to get me to sign but I couldn't sign that because the child isn't in Colorado, child is in Utah. So you would -- but Utah has to make that determination whether or not it's going to exercise home state jurisdiction.

And that assumes that the adoption doesn't happen. Now the adoption may happen in which case then it happens, but -- but if Utah decides it's not

going to take home state jurisdiction for the reasons that I've discussed, then it comes back to me. Utah enters temporary orders and they are allowed basically temporary immediate jurisdiction and then it comes back to me.

I make the determination, whatever I decide, and I don't know what I would decide because I haven't heard any evidence, then I would -- then you take that to Utah and you get it enforced in Utah. And that could include a pick-up order if it gets to that point, but it may not. I don't know. Because I may decide that is not in the best interests.

I have to go through our best interests analysis and all the factors that are in our statute, which are found in Title 19, but also point to and include stuff from Title 14, and actually I understand that my jurisdiction under Title 19 is broader than it is under Title 14, which is the domestic relations law because this is not a domestic relations case; this is a paternity case. Does that make sense?

MS. BERKELEY: Yes, thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Burgos, does that

make sense?

MS. BURGOS: It does.

THE COURT: Ms. Terry?

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Yep.

THE COURT: Anything else?

MS. BERKELEY: One other question, so I guess just to confirm -- we're going to go to Utah. I know we are and request that Utah decline jurisdiction, so just waiting for a written order from Utah or --

THE COURT: Whatever Utah -- however they do their orders is how they do their orders, but Utah will either decide to take home state jurisdiction or will say thanks but no thanks.

MS. BERKELEY: Might call you. If they call, will you allow us to come back?

with me. Remember way back when we first had this going on I said the day may come Utah needs to consult with me, and that's what I was thinking of at that point because Utah will maybe have to ask me the question, well, we don't want jurisdiction, will you take it, and I'll have to decide either yes or no.

And I would hear argument from the parties and based on the record and my findings so far more than likely I would say yes, but again I can't make any final decision until I hear from everybody and know what they have to say and what the state of the

law is. I don't want to prejudge something and by that comment want to be very clear I'm not.

Okay. And then we need to set an evidentiary hearing here in Colorado. Whether that hearing will ever actually be held or not remains to be seen, but at least I have the date and the time set aside to do it in case I need to.

Yes, ma'am.

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Your Honor, just wondering you said if we have to have an evidentiary hearing. If the Court of Appeals declines Utah jurisdiction and all that, that you truly look at what is in the best interests of the child versus the mother, father, and the Byingtons, so would the Byingtons be allowed to come and participate in an evidentiary hearing?

THE COURT: They would be most welcome.

RESPONDENT MOTHER: Okay.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE CLERK: What time frame are you seeking?

THE COURT: I would think about 30 days.

That gives Ms. Burgos the time to do her work and I really don't see things getting resolved much quicker than that. I think 30 days is actually a fast track, and trying to do it as quickly as I can because I

1 understand we have issues of attachment and so on so 2 very mindful of that as well. THE CLERK: October 8th. 3 THE COURT: So that is a tentative date and 4 5 again whether we actually have the hearing or not 6 remains to be seen. 7 RESPONDENT MOTHER: Is there a time? 8 THE CLERK: At nine -- nine a.m. 9 THE COURT: I would probably contemplate a 10 one-day hearing. I may issue some type of a case 11 management order here directly in terms of what not. At a minimum I would want parties to have exchanged 12 13 witness lists by close of business on October 1st. 14 MS. BERKELEY: Your Honor, I have a 15 permanent orders hearing that day, but if I can't be here, I think Mr. Osborne will be here. 16 17 THE COURT: Okay. MS. BERKELEY: I will try to reschedule my 18 19 permanent orders. 20 THE COURT: Again I may issue out some type of minute order which will tell the parties -- each 21 side the time they have in terms of evidence, and 22

you'll get your time and when time is out, it's out,

because I would think we could do this in one day.

Ms. Burgos?

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MS. BURGOS: What time on the 8th, I'm 1 sorry? 2 3 THE CLERK: Nine o'clock. MS. BURGOS: That's fine. 4 THE COURT: One-day hearing. 5 RESPONDENT MOTHER: Your Honor, would you 6 7 like me to make sure Larry Jenkins or somebody in Utah 8 lets you know what the Court of Appeals' decision was? 9 THE COURT: I expect parties are under a 10 continuing obligation to keep me informed in terms of 11 what is happening in Utah. 12 RESPONDENT MOTHER: Okay. 13 THE COURT: Everybody has been pretty good 14 about that. And if -- again if I -- I may vacate the 15 hearing or cancel the hearing based on what happens in 16 Utah, but if -- if I need to have a hearing, I'm ready 17 to go. MS. BURGOS: Thank you, Your Honor. 18 19 We're in recess. THE COURT: Thank you. 20 (The proceedings were concluded.) 21 22 23 24 25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE The above and foregoing is a true and complete transcription of my stenotype notes taken in my capacity as Official Reporter of Division 2, Juvenile Court, Denver County, Colorado, at the time and place above set forth. Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 11th day of September.