Court grants a restraining order against parents

Valley Press

Los Angeles County Superior Court Commissioner Robert McSorley granted a three-year restraining order Friday against a Palmdale Learning Plaza pupil's parents, who a teacher alleged harassed and made threats against her and caused a congenital heart defect in her infant son.

McSorley approved the restraining order request from third-grade teacher Amber Allington against Peter Silva and Judy Magnuson, whose daughter Allington taught last year. The order requires Silva and Magnuson to stay 100 yards away from Allington, her home and work.

"The Palmdale School District will ensure compliance with the court's order to the extent it relates to Palmdale Learning Plaza," school district counsel Bonny Garcia said. "We'll dot our I's and cross our T's in every respect."

Silva said he and Magnuson planned to appeal.

"We feel like the evidence we had wasn't taken into consideration," he said. "We certainly don't believe we have harassed this person."

Silva added that the couple was "exploring our options" as to where their daughter would attend school.

Court documents indicated Allington also sought to prevent Silva and Magnuson from speaking with school Principal Danny Kanga and with other teachers and parents at Palmdale Learning Plaza.

Allington alleged the couple met with Kanga multiple times over things that happened in her classroom and are "constantly nit-picking everything I do," she wrote on the court document, filed Sept. 1.

She alleged the couple threatened to have her fired. She also alleged they threatened to use a gun or other weapon, writing, "They claim to be ex-FBI agents and snipers. The wife says that she carries around six handcuffs and isn't afraid to use them."

Allington wrote she went into pre-term labor last school year and her baby ended up having a congenital heart defect that required heart surgery at eight days as a result of the alleged harassment.

Silva said the restraining order is a matter of retaliation and revenge after they filed a formal complaint against Allington last year alleging the educator did not follow daughter Mahea's Individual Education Plan for Other Health Issue and also for verbal abuse.

Magnuson and Silva said their daughter is an extreme hypoglycemic whose body produces too much insulin. She takes medication to control that.

She also has a congenital genetic disorder that causes the ammonia level in her blood to rise, putting her at risk of death. The only way for Mahea to flush her body of high ammonia levels is to drink a lot of water and use the bathroom, her parents said.

Silva said they have never threatened violence.