

TERESA RHOADES and MICHAEL )  
RHOADES as parents and next friends of )  
CHELSEA RHOADES, a minor, )  
)  
*Plaintiffs,* )

v. )

Cause No. 3:05-CV-00586

)  
PENN HARRIS MADISON SCHOOL )  
CORPORATION, DAVID R. TYDGATE, )  
DAVID RISNER, STEVEN HOPE, VICKIE )  
MARSHALL, MARNI CRONK, and )  
MADISON CENTER, INC., )  
)  
*Defendants.* )

**AFFIDAVIT OF TERESA RHOADES**

COMES NOW the affiant, Teresa Rhoades, and makes the following statements which are based upon her personal knowledge:

1. I am over 18 years of age and am competent to testify concerning the facts set forth in this affidavit.
2. I am the mother of Chelsea Rhoades, who is a student at Penn High School, a division of Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation.
3. On December 7, 2004, I was at home early from work, when Chelsea came home from school. She came in the kitchen and asked me if I knew what social anxiety disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder were. I told her what I knew about the two conditions.
4. I then asked if she was working on a school project, and Chelsea told me no. Chelsea stated that a woman at school told her that she had these disorders. I asked her to sit

why the woman told her that she had those conditions.

5. Chelsea explained that during homeroom, her teacher told the students the office had sent instructions that the students were to be sent down for a test. Chelsea explained that she had helped her friend Stacie to the room and then was directed to take the test. After the test, she was instructed to wait in the hallway until the results of her test were completed.

6. Chelsea said that after a short wait a woman called out her name and led her down the hallway away from the other kids. The woman then told her she had Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and social anxiety disorder, and that her parents should call the Madison Center.

7. After about 20 minutes of discussion with Chelsea on this matter, she started to cry and she asked me if I thought there was really something seriously wrong with her and if I thought those people were right. I told her that there was nothing wrong with her, and that I would contact the school to find out what this test was and who had spoken to her. After talking with Chelsea I spoke with my husband as to what had transpired with Chelsea at school.

8. On December 8, 2004, I contacted the school and requested to speak with the principal. I was connected to Assistant Principal David Risner. Mr. Risner told me he had not seen the test, nor was he sure what the testing was, only that the Madison Center was conducting the testing. Mr. Risner said he would contact the gentleman from the Madison Center who was the director of the program, and have him contact me directly. I then asked Mr. Risner why I had not been informed of this screening. Mr. Risner indicated he believed letters had been sent to the home of the children who would be tested.

9. Prior to December 7, 2004, neither I nor my husband, Michael Rhoades, ever saw any notice from the Penn High School that the TeenScreen examination would be given to

10. On December 8, 2004, Mr. Steven Bright called my office and told me he was a representative of Madison Center. I told Mr. Bright who I was and told him my daughters name and that she had been one of the children screened at Penn High School on December 7. He requested that I hold for a minute while he pulled the information on my daughter.

11. I asked Mr. Bright about the TeenScreen program, and he indicated it was a suicide prevention program offered by the Madison Center for Penn High School sophomores. When I asked why only the sophomore children were screened he indicated that this was the target age group of children with the highest rate of suicide nation wide, and based off of studies conducted by Columbia University.

12. I then asked the educational level of the individual who told Chelsea that Chelsea suffered from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and social anxiety disorder. Mr. Bright stated that the individual was certified. I repeated my question, and again he stated they were certified, but would not divulge their educational level.

13. I asked Mr. Bright who had funded this program and he stated that it was a community service offered by the Madison Center, but would not divulge the funding source.

14 I asked Mr. Bright what document had the Madison Center requested my daughter sign, and he stated it was an assent form. I responded that it was illegal to have children sign a consent or assent form without a parent's authorization. Mr. Bright then told me it was not the responsibility of the Madison Center to obtain written consent from the parents; that responsibility had been assumed by the School Corporation.

16. I then requested that Mr. Bright send a copy of the screening and any documents that they had my daughter sign to my office within 24 hours. Mr. Bright said he would supply me with the information I had requested. Mr. Bright faxed to my office a copy of the screening and the assent form to my office. A copy of these materials is attached to this affidavit as Exhibit A.

17. I then contacted the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation's Educational Service Center and requested to talk to the Superintendent or someone would provide me more information regarding the Teenscreen program. Ms. Nancy Nimitz returned my call. I explained to Ms. Nimitz what had happen to my daughter, and that she (Chelsea) was quite upset with what had been told to her, and that she believed that something was very seriously wrong with her. I also asked Ms. Nimitz about the letter Mr. Risner spoke about and she indicated that she thought the letter had been mailed out with one of the monthly newsletters. I told Ms. Nimitz that neither my husband nor I had ever received a letter on the test and I requested she send a copy of this letter to my office. I also asked her why, if we had not received the letter, had Chelsea been allowed to take the screening. Ms. Nimitz said she would look into the matter.

18. Ms Nimitz, did apologize and indicated she had not reviewed the screening questionnaire herself, but would make some inquires as to what the program was, how it was being conducted, and that she would contact me again once she had the information I was inquiring about.

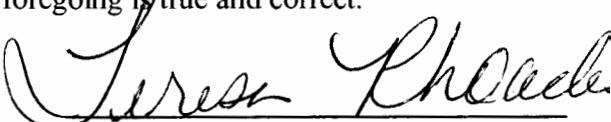
from the Madison Center. They confirmed that children were being given the results of the screening, but because I had brought it to her attention that would no longer be done. Regarding the TeenScreen information letter the school says were mailed to all the parents homes, Ms. Nimtz explained that the letter stated that if parents DID NOT want their children to take the test then they were required to return the form, and if a form was not returned the school assumed the children would participate in the screening.

20. Based upon my observations of Chelsea, I believe that for quite sometime after December 7, 2004, Chelsea had feelings of self doubt and believed there was something wrong with her mentally.

21. The incidents described herein caused a great amount of stress on myself and my husband, seeing Chelsea so upset over this ordeal and other children in our district that we spoke with. My husband and I believe we were denied our fundamental right as Chelsea's parents to be able to make the decision whether Chelsea should participate in a program such as TeenScreen and to be involved in the decision of whether and how she should be told that she suffered from serious mental disorders.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 17, 2006.

  
Teresa Rhoades