

# Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty, Inc.

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*Equal rights for children under the law*



Photo from "Warren Jeffs ordering child labor?"-CNN Video, CNN.com

## Court finds children in polygamous sect exploited

Nearly 200 children in the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) were illegally pulled out of their home schooling to work long hours in fields without pay, a federal judge ruled on June 1. The FLDS is not affiliated with the Mormon Church.

Judge Tena Campbell of the U.S. District Court for Utah held Paragon Contractors, which is controlled by the FLDS, in contempt of court for continuing to violate child labor laws.

The U.S. Department of Labor had previously cited and fined Paragon Contractors for multiple child labor violations and in 2007 obtained a permanent injunction to prevent them from exploiting children again.

Nevertheless, in 2012, the company used 1400 workers, including 175 children, as unpaid labor in harvesting pecans.

The Labor Department stated that children as young as six were working long hours at the pecan ranch. The work included pruning trees, mowing fields, maintenance, picking and bagging pecans, shaking trees, driving equipment, cleanup, and shelling pecans. Some worked 15 hours a day.

Five children and teenagers testified to Judge Campbell that they were pulled out of classes to work at the ranch. They said they got sick from

crawling on the wet ground, were not allowed to rest or given enough food, and sometimes wet their pants because there weren't enough toilets.

No records were kept on the workers, but Sam Brower, private investigator and author of *Prophet's Prey*, was able to locate them. An FLDS official ordered the children to run when Brower and CNN drove up but they were able to get some film.

Paragon testified that the company was responsible only for the machines that shook the nuts off the trees and that FLDS families had volunteered to pick up fallen nuts to build up food supplies for the needy. Three adults testified that the children liked the harvest work as a break from their schooling.

Campbell could sentence Paragon to pay back wages and to submit to independent monitoring.

The Labor Department deserves great credit for its multi-year investigation of the exploitation of FLDS children especially after another federal judge ruled that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act protected an FLDS official from answering the Department's questions. *Perez v. Paragon Contractors Corp.*, No. 2:13CV00281-DS, 2014 WL 4628572 (D. Utah Sept. 11, 2014). See also the CHILD newsletter 2014 #2.

Utah does not regulate agricultural work done outside of school hours and has never investigated child labor in the FLDS. Paragon argued that the children were not missing school because they were home schooled and with their parents in the harvest.

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Federal attorneys disagreed, arguing that any labor during the hours of the public school day was illegal child labor.

### **Unpaid labor makes companies profitable**

Paragon and other construction companies controlled by the FLDS were very profitable businesses. In Nevada they got millions of dollars in government contracts. Nevada requires the state to accept the lowest bid; ex-members say the FLDS-affiliated companies could bid low because of their unpaid labor force.

Sources include KVBC News, July 26, 2006; *Salt Lake City Tribune*, Jan. 26 and June 1, 2016.

### **The screw turns on the FLDS**

The judgment in the child labor case (above) is just the latest in a string of defeats that may permanently weaken the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (FLDS)'s abusive control over its members.

CHILD offers this brief chronology of 21<sup>st</sup>-century court cases.

- 2001 Tom Green convicted of bigamy and non-support in Utah
- 2001 Dan Barlow, Jr. convicted in Arizona of repeatedly raping his five daughters over several years; sentenced to 13 days in jail
- 2002 Green convicted of child rape
- 2002 Josh Johnson convicted in Arizona of molesting 4-year-old girl; sentenced to 13 days in jail
- 2002 Ruth Stubbs Holm files suit for custody of three children; judge rules children can visit their father in polygamous community every other weekend; can't have sex with his second wife while the children are present
- 2003 Washington County UT convicts Rodney Holm of two counts of sexual relations with a minor and one count of bigamy
- 2004 Lost Boys file lawsuit against United Effort Plan Trust (UEP) for being abandoned and cut off from families; UEP owns and controls all land and assets in adjacent FLDS towns called Short Creek

Brent Jeffs files suit against Jeffs for raping him when Brent was five years old; Warren Jeffs directs followers to "answer them nothing"

2005 Utah & Arizona move to force new trustees on UEP Trust so assets will be saved for benefit of all members and for plaintiffs; Jeffs still says "answer them nothing"

Private investigator Sam Brower documents Short Creek officials illegally removing buildings from Short Creek; apparently moved to FLDS company in Nevada

2005 Mohave County AZ files sex abuse charges against eight polygamists

2005 Elissa Wall files lawsuit against Jeffs, FLDS Church and UEP for forcing her to marry her cousin at age 14

2006 FBI puts Warren Jeffs on its ten most wanted list for sexual assault of minors; Jeffs is arrested later that year

2006 Utah Supreme Court upholds Holm's conviction on all counts by 4-1; upholds constitutionality of Utah's bigamy law; does not rule on whether polygamy is a constitutional exercise of religious freedom; U.S. Supreme Court declines to rule

2006-07 Mohave County criminal charges resolved with two trials ending in convictions, two pleading no contest, one jury trial acquittal, and charges dismissed in three cases

2007 Lost Boys settle lawsuit with UEP Trust

2007 Warren Jeffs sentenced to two consecutive terms of five years to life for two counts of being accomplice to rape of Elissa Wall; Utah Supreme Court overturns conviction in 2010

2008 Arizona Court of Appeals upholds conviction of polygamist Kelly Fisher, rejects his claim that state law against polygamy violates his religious rights

2008 Texas raids Jeffs's Yearning For Zion (YFZ) compound in El Dorado, Texas, taking custody of 462 children; appeals courts order separate hearings on each child to determine abuse or neglect; instead, the state returns children to their parents, but materials seized in raid enable criminal indictments

2009-2012 A dozen FLDS men convicted in Texas for sexual assault, all prosecuted by Texas A-G's special prosecutor Eric Nichols

2011 Extradited to Texas, Warren Jeffs is sentenced to 35 years to life for sexually assaulting two underage girls he claimed were his spiritual wives

2012 Former FLDS spokesman and Jeffs's bodyguard Willie Jessop files suit against Jeffs, other FLDS leaders and a Nevada construction company charging harassment, theft, and destruction of his construction company

2012 FLDS does not answer the charges; Fifth District Court in St. George awards Jessop \$30 million

2014 Texas seizes YFZ because it was used in commission of crime

2015 U.S. Dept. of Labor files suit against FLDS for child labor violations, also levies fine of \$1.9 million for the violations

2016 (Feb. 23) Federal grand jury in Salt Lake City indicts eleven FLDS leaders in Utah and South Dakota on charges of conspiracy to commit food stamp fraud and money laundering.

2016 (March 7) U.S. District Court jury in Phoenix awards six plaintiffs \$1.6 million in damages, finds that two polygamous towns discriminated against residents who were not loyal to the FLDS

2016 (May 6) After Utah Supreme Court allows Elissa Wall's suit against Jeffs, the FLDS Church, and the UEP Trust to go forward, Wall settles with UEP for \$2.75 million

2016 (June 1) U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City holds FLDS-controlled Paragon Contractors in contempt of court for child labor violations

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## FLDS litigation: obstacles and rewards

In 1953 Arizona Governor Howard Pyle ordered a raid on the polygamous community of Short Creek. Like contemporary critics he decried its child abuse, forced marriage, incest, educational neglect, and misuse of public benefits. 263 children were taken into custody with the majority not returned to their parents for two years.

The raid backfired. It generated public sympathy for families torn apart by the government and Pyle lost the next election.

Afterwards Utah and Arizona left polygamy alone until a few months before the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake. Polygamist Tom Green publicly bragged that he had married all ten of his wives when they were minors.

Prosecutor David Leavitt, the Governor's brother, won convictions of Green, but Leavitt also lost his next election with many local residents saying the publicity was distasteful to them.

### Arizona pursues FLDS abuses aggressively

Public support is only one of several problems prosecutors have to deal with. In 2005 Mohave County, Arizona, hired Gary Engels to investigate the FLDS community. He got indictments of eight men for sex with underage girls. He accomplished more in a year than Utah and Arizona together had done in fifty years.

Charges against three men had to be dismissed, however, because witnesses recanted or refused to testify. In one of those cases, there was even evidence that the victim (Ruth Stubbs Holm) tried to blackmail the FLDS, offering to testify in support of her ex-husband if she was paid.

In a fourth case charges had to be dismissed because prosecutors could not establish whether the crimes had occurred in Arizona or Utah since the two towns of Colorado City, Arizona, and Hildale, Utah, are essentially one community.

### Jeffs: "answer them nothing"

On the other hand litigants have been greatly advantaged by Warren Jeffs's command to "answer them nothing" taken from the Book of Mormon, which praises two believers who are brought before judges and tortured but refuse to answer charges.

The lawsuit by the abandoned Lost Boys reportedly inspired Utah and Arizona to petition courts to force new trustees of the United Effort Plan Trust to be installed so that its assets would no longer be under the control of FLDS officials. Individuals can buy or build homes in those towns but the UEP owned the land underneath them giving Warren Jeffs power to evict residents and "reassign" husbands, wives, and children at will. Though UEP assets were over \$100 million, Jeffs directed his followers not to respond to the petition.

## Deserted by parents, boys nevertheless protect them from financial ruin

He also ordered “answer them nothing” to the Lost Boys’ lawsuit. The boys could have had millions of dollars each from the UEP. They unanimously forfeited that wealth because their birth families, the same people who had abandoned and disowned them, could have been made homeless. Instead the Lost Boys settled for 21 acres of property and a \$250,000 education and emergency fund to help all boys disowned by the polygamists.

### “Thug Willie”

Not all litigants were as self-sacrificing as the Lost Boys. After spending more than a decade as FLDS security chief and spokesman, intimidating FLDS opponents, and once helping Jeffs evade capture, Willie Jessop (also known as “Thug Willie”) claimed to have discovered to his astonishment in 2011 that Jeffs was having sex with underage girls and therefore was not a prophet.

He turned against Jeffs, garnered national media attention, and filed a \$100 million lawsuit against Jeffs and FLDS entities. Again none of the defendants answered the complaint; the court awarded Jessop \$30 million. Mohave County sold water rights to raise money for the judgment; Jessop also took possession of one of Jeffs’s homes.

### Elissa Wall

In a suit filed eleven years ago Elissa Wall was recently awarded \$2.75 million for the sexual abuse and forced marriage she endured. She was a star witness for the state in some of the criminal trials.

Federal, state, and private litigants are winning against FLDS repeatedly, but hundreds of child sexual abuse victims cannot file suits because the statute of limitations has run.

Sources include *Provo Daily Herald*, Nov. 6, 2002; *Los Angeles Times*, May 13, 2006; CNN, Sept. 21, 2007; *Deseret News*, June 9, 2012; Fox13now, May 6, 2016; and books listed on p. 6.

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## Are the children safe now?

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) considers their intervention a success though all the children except Merrienne Jessop were returned to their parents—or people who claimed to be their parents since the DFPS

returned many children without waiting for DNA test results to establish paternity and the state does not know where the children are now.

The DFPS hangs its hat on a statement by an FLDS spokesperson that underage marriages will no longer be allowed and on safety plans the Department gave to parents. But only a small number of the parents getting their children back actually signed the plans.

Furthermore, underage marriage is not the only kind of child sexual abuse going on in the FLDS.

The DFPS did not attempt to terminate parental rights. Even Merrienne’s parents, who had arranged for her to be “sealed in marriage” to Warren Jeffs at age 12, retained custody. The girl was sent to live with an aunt but the aunt herself was an FLDS member.

Janet Heimlich, founder of the Child-Friendly Faith Project and an honorary CHILD member, wrote a very informative article questioning the protection achieved by the Department entitled “No refuge,” in the *Texas Observer*, Aug. 1, 2012.

Since the state has seized the FLDS Yearning for Zion compound, maybe Texas no longer has a problem. But the FLDS still has compounds elsewhere, and an ex-member says the FLDS talks about building a temple in Jackson County, Missouri, which they regard as the site of the Garden of Eden.

Moreover, Warren Jeffs still issues directives from prison and they are, if anything, more bizarre and exploitive than ever. Many members still believe they are commandments from God and Jeffs is a victim of evil forces. His deputy Lyle Jeffs has been on the run from the law for months.

The church is losing a big percentage of its assets. Many people are reportedly leaving the Short Creek polygamous communities and there are organizations such as Holding Out Help to help them enter mainstream society. Considering, however, that American officials allowed such horrifying abuses of hundreds of children to go on for decades unchallenged, we are not sure the court cases of 2016 are in the words of *Rolling Stone Magazine*, “A Polygamist Cult’s Last Stand.”

Sources include *Texas Observer*, Aug. 1, 2012; Sam Brower, *Prophet’s Prey*; *Rapid City Journal*, May 8, 2016; *Rolling Stone*, Feb. 9, 2016; and *The Guardian*, Apr. 3, 2016.

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## Living and dying for the principle

*The Sound of Gravel* by Ruth Wariner (Flatiron Books, 2015)



Ruth Wariner's memoir is a vivid illustration of why polygamy should be illegal. The 39th of her father's 42 children, she experienced emotional, educational, and physical neglect as well as sexual abuse. She witnessed domestic violence and had far too many adult responsibilities for her age. She lost a

brother and both parents because of religious fanaticism. Three of her siblings had severe mental health problems perhaps because of poor nutrition; her sister's schizophrenia was blamed on demon possession. Her mother loved her and all ten of her children but loved "the principle" of her religion more.

### Colony in Mexico for polygamy restoration

Her father and grandparents founded Colonia LeBaron in Mexico to restore polygamy to the Mormon religion. They believed it was a divine commandment and the principle essential to reach heaven. Men who have multiple wives and as many children as possible will become gods and rulers of a heavenly kingdom. Their faithful, cooperative wives will become goddesses as their husbands' heavenly servants. Without polygamy, life on earth is meaningless, they claim.

### Lying and cheating U.S. taxpayers o.k.

Ruth's family moved repeatedly between Mexico and the United States ("Babylon") for work and fraud. Although the adults were sure that Babylon would soon be destroyed for its evils, they also believed it was fine to collect U.S. taxpayer money fraudulently:

Lots of women like my mom—the American wives of polygamists raising their kids in Mexico—would travel north and collect government assistance checks. Many of the men in our colony did construction work in border states such as California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, which provided plenty of addresses for the women to use when it came time

to pick up welfare checks, and lots of places to stay too. Mom said that we had to learn to live modestly; that we might be poor, but we were rich in spirit. Being faithful sometimes meant doing without. And we were doing the Lord's work, so why shouldn't US taxpayers fund our efforts? *Sound of Gravel*: 20

I listened, confused and stunned, as my deeply religious mother told the man from HUD (U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development) that she didn't know who the fathers of her children were. Mom would rail against us kids lying, telling us what a horrible sin it was, but it was clear from her performance that she was good at it herself. *Sound of Gravel*: 144

### Mother demands child forgive abuser

Most revolting is how her mother handled the sexual abuse of her daughter. With the mindset that women have value only as plural wives and baby-makers, Lane (Ruthie's stepfather) tells the preteen child that she and he "need to practice" so she will know "what to do" when she marries. Lane orders her not to hurt her mother by disclosing his behavior but Ruthie finally musters the courage to tell her.

Sadly, her mother claims he has repented and insists that Ruthie must forgive him. Eventually Ruthie learns that her stepsisters have also been molested by Lane. The three girls get their mothers together and disclose together. Again, they are told only that he has repented and they must forgive.

### Wives beg for return of perpetrator

After sexual abuse of other girls comes to light, the elders ban Lane from the colony for two years but his wives are expected to take turns visiting him out of town or in the States. Long before the two years are up, the wives beg the elders to let him return because they "miss him, and he's lonely without his families." They need "a man around to lead [them] and to discipline the kids."

### Mother and brother are victims but cannot reject polygamy

Ruthie's strength is very impressive. Though her mother is nearly the worst possible role model, Ruthie becomes progressively bolder. She speaks out to her mother repeatedly protesting Lane's sexual abuse, their impoverished living conditions, and her mother's continuous pregnancies. Her mother cannot extricate herself from her belief system.

Her oldest brother Matt rejects Lane's economic exploitation of him and moves to California over their mother's protest. Later he and 15-year-old Ruthie orchestrate a daring escape of her and all their siblings to the States. But even Matt does not reject polygamy and after having six children in ten years with his sweetheart, takes a second wife

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## Indelible images

Some images from polygamy are indelible. I defy anyone to read them without revulsion. A child's description of the funeral for her unembalmed mother and brother is one. Ruth Wariner, *The Sound of Gravel*: 295-303. Another is the transcript of the recording that Warren Jeffs had made of his rape of 12-year-old Merrienne Jessop with sister wives standing around the bed in the center of the temple and tying the girls' hands to his. Sam Brower, *Prophet's Prey*: 218-20.

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## And the heroes

The heroes in the FLDS saga include the prosecutors who got justice for crimes against children.

They also include the victims who have written and testified about these crimes. Their powerful books, in addition to *Sound of Gravel* include:

Brent Jeffs, *Lost Boy*

Flora Jessop, *The Church of Lies*

Rebecca Musser, *The Witness Wore Red: the 19<sup>th</sup> Wife Who Brought Polygamous Cult Leaders to Justice*

Elissa Wall, *Stolen Innocence: My Story of Growing Up in a Polygamous Sect, Becoming a Teenage Bride, and Breaking Free of Warren Jeffs*

Another hero who deserves more recognition than he has gotten is Dr. Dan Fischer. Although most FLDS children were denied a decent education, the prophet chose Fischer to study dentistry. Fischer became a licensed dentist and returned to the FLDS to serve the community.

Over the years he invented dental products and implements that made him a multimillionaire.

When Warren Jeffs took over FLDS and began splitting up families and enforcing eccentric rules,



Fischer became disenchanted and left the sect.

Fischer has helped hundreds of the FLDS "Lost Boys," who were abandoned by their families. He has provided board and room, clothing, education, employment, emotional support, and reorientation to the outside world. His charity, Diver-

sity Foundation, promotes tolerance in opposition to FLDS racism and homophobia.

Fischer paid attorneys' fees so that the Lost Boys could file their landmark lawsuit.

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## Defiant parents convicted of neglect for toddler's death

In April Canadian parents Collet and David Stephan were convicted of failure to provide necessities of life for their 19-month-old son Ezekiel Jasher, who died in 2012 of bacterial meningitis. The disease is vaccine preventable.

The toddler was sick from February 27 to March 16. Collet testified that the sound of his labored breathing was "heartwrenching."

### Child deteriorates despite natural remedies

Opposed to vaccines and believers in "natural" remedies, the parents "treated" him with maple syrup, olive leaf extract, garlic, hot peppers, and horseradish for what they thought was croup.

Between March 5 and 10 the parents believed he was improving.

By March 11, however, they noticed his body was very stiff and he refused food and fluid. They began giving him liquid with an eyedropper.

### Nurse and naturopath recommend medical care

A registered medical nurse came to the home as a family friend and told them the boy might have viral meningitis and should be taken to a doctor.

Instead, Collet went online, decided he did not have symptoms of bacterial meningitis, and looked for natural remedies for viral meningitis. The only way to know whether meningitis is bacterial or the less dangerous viral form is to do a lumbar puncture but Mrs. Stephan thought she could determine that by surfing the internet.

Two days later the parents drove with Ezekiel to Dr. Tracey Tannis' naturopathic clinic. The baby's arched back was so stiff he could not be put in his car seat.

Tannis later testified that, when the mother called and asked for a remedy for meningitis, she advised that the baby to be taken to a hospital immediately and stayed by the phone to make sure that message was relayed to the mother. Instead, the parents came to Tannis' clinic and purchased an echinacea product there. Tannis testified that she never met the mother, but a clinic employee testified that she introduced them and described Stephan to Tannis as the mother of "the little one with meningitis."

That night he stopped breathing and the parents called 911. At the hospital they were told their son was brain dead, but they asked for him to be kept on life support so they could try to find natural remedies to help him. Ezekiel died days later.

### **Love is not enough**

The crown prosecutor acknowledged that the Stephans loved their son but "parents still have to follow a standard of care as set by criminal law." Ezekiel was unable to speak for himself, the prosecutor pointed out.

The parents had a large and regular entourage of supporters in and outside the courtroom. They sang hymns, prayed together, and waved posters.

### **Dad alleges dishonesty and persecution**

Their Facebook page Prayers for Ezekiel exploded with vitriol and anger after the conviction. The father wrote to the jury accusing the prosecution of muzzling witnesses, "deception, drama, and trickery." He charged that the conviction set a dangerous precedent, opening the flood gates for prosecuting parents. He also claimed the family was "offered up on the sacrificial altar of the vaccine industry."

### **No responsibility or remorse**

Alberta Court of Queen's Bench Justice Rodney Jerke said at sentencing that the parents were

"willfully blind" and still refuse to take personal responsibility for their son's suffering and death. In particular Jerke said the father showed "a complete lack of remorse."



*Ezekiel Stephan*

The justice sentenced the father to four months in jail, the mother to three months of house arrest, and both to two years probation. He also ordered the Stephans to take their children to a doctor at least once a year and to publish his complete sentencing statement on their Facebook page and any other social media pages they have. The Stephans still have not posted it to our knowledge.

### **Family profits from natural remedies**

The parents' faith in natural remedies has a financial incentive. David's father Anthony founded Truehope Nutritional Support in 1996 after his wife committed suicide. She and some of their ten children had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Anthony Stephan was told by a fellow Mormon that vitamins and minerals have mitigated biting behavior of hogs so he developed a vitamin-mineral supplement called EmpowerPlus that he claims alleviates anxiety, ADHD, bipolar disorder, autism, and other neurological disorders.

There is one and only one placebo-controlled, double-blind study of this product. The authors concluded that it showed "preliminary evidence" of efficacy for treating ADHD in adults. But Truehope makes far greater claims for the product.

Anthony Stephan fought for over a decade for Health Canada's approval of the product before an Alberta judge ruled that it could be sold as a drug. It is now shipped to more than 100 countries.

David is the vice-president of Truehope; his brother Brad is the chief operating officer.

## Quackery an issue in other deaths of Alberta children

In addition to the Ezekiel Stephan case (above) three other criminal cases dealing with fatal medical neglect of children are pending in Calgary, Alberta.

Tamara Lovett has been charged with failure to provide necessities of life and criminal negligence. Her seven-year-old son Ryan Lovett died in 2013 of a strep infection. The child was bedridden for ten days. Some friends and family members advised her to take him to a doctor, but Mrs. Lovett instead gave him homeopathic herbal remedies.

Calgary parents Jeromie and Jennifer Clark have also been charged with failure to provide necessities and criminal negligence. Their fourteen-month-old son John died in 2013 of a staph infection and malnutrition.

The police says the Clarks are Seventh-day Adventists and followed a strict diet based on an extreme interpretation of the faith.

The parents allegedly concealed the baby's condition from other family members.

Emil and Rodica Radita are charged with first-degree murder for the horrific death of their 15-year-old son Alexandru. The boy weighed only 37 pounds when he died of diabetes, sepsis and malnutrition.

The Radita trial resumes in September. More information on these cases will appear in the next CHILD newsletter.

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## When will reporting laws be enforced?

Alberta's Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act says anyone with "reasonable or probable grounds to believe that a child is in need of intervention" must report it and sets a maximum penalty of six months in jail or a fine of \$2,000 for failure to report.

The medical nurse who saw baby Ezekiel Stephan and the naturopath who was told he had meningitis (above) certainly had grounds to believe he needed "intervention," but did not report it to provincial children's services. Tamara Lovett's friends had grounds to believe baby Ryan needed medical care since they urged her to get it but they did not report either.

An Alberta Justice Department spokesman told the press that no-one has ever been charged for failure to report in that jurisdiction.

See *The Canadian Press*, April 29, 2016, and *Calgary Herald*, Jan. 30, 2015.

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## Quality control for naturopathy?

Naturopaths, midwives and other providers have long pushed for state licensure on the grounds that it imposes professional standards and gives patients more choices.

In six Canadian provinces naturopaths are licensed and may use the title Doctor. They are regulated by boards of their own peers called colleges.

Ontario regulations give naturopaths a very broad scope of practice but also require them to ensure that all their claims are "accurate, verifiable [and] comprehensible."

*Toronto Globe and Mail* columnist Carly Weeks studied about 300 websites of Toronto naturopaths and concluded that nearly half made false or unverifiable claims. One promises he can "break" cancer cells "from the inside out. Some advertise alternatives to mammography and vaccines. Some claim they can detect diseases years before symptoms appear by studying the patient's iris.

She found no evidence that their regulatory board, the College of Naturopaths, is investigating such claims or disciplining its members.

Forty-three physician have written a public letter recommending investigation of Dr. Tracey Tannis, the naturopath from whom the Stephens got their echinacea prescription for their son. See previous articles.

Two witnesses testified in court that Tannis met Mrs. Stephan in her clinic and discussed viral meningitis with her. Tannis denies meeting her but admits Stephan told her on the phone that a nurse had told them he might have meningitis.

In any case, she did represent herself as a doctor and sell a product out of her own clinic without examining and diagnosing the child. She claims it was not a prescription because it could have been bought over the counter.

Sources include *Toronto Globe and Mail*, April 28, 2016, and letter from Dr. Michelle Cohen, M.D. to College of Naturopathic Physicians of Alberta, March 28, 2016.