

Child Advocacy Activities of Rita Swan

President of **CHILD, Inc.**

136 Blue Heron Place

Lexington, Kentucky 40511, Web page: <http://www.childrenshealthcare.org>

Ph. 859-255-2200, e-mail: rita@childrenshealthcare.org

Publications

“Pulse oximetry should be required without a religious exemption.” *American Journal of Bioethics*, 16:1, 26-28, DOI: 10.1080/15265161.2015.1115151

“Religious attitudes to death: Religious exception defense.” In: Payne-James J. and Byard R.W. (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, 2nd edition, v. 4, pp. 109-114. Oxford: Elsevier.

“Child abuse under the guise of religion,” *New York Times* online forum entitled “Room for Debate,” 10 March 2015.

“The Long Haul,” *American Academy of Pediatrics Senior Bulletin*, Summer 2014.

“Congress should require health insurance for children,” *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 25 April 2014.

“Protect children and faith with religion-neutral laws,” *NewsWorks*, 25 June 2013.

“House amendment nullifies impact of childhood vaccine bill,” *Tacoma News-Tribune*, 8 Apr. 2011.

“Prayer-fee mandates removed from federal health care bills,” *ICSA Today* 1 (2010):18-21 (ICSA is the International Cultic Studies Association).

“Religion and Child Neglect” in *Child Abuse and Neglect: Diagnosis, Treatment and Evidence*, ed. Carole Jenny, Philadelphia: Elsevier/Saunders, 2010: 599-604.

The Last Strawberry (Dublin: Hag’s Head Press, 2010).

“Matthew, you cannot be sick,” *Dublin Review* 37 (winter 2009-10)43-69.

“Does one bizarre health care policy merit another?,” *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, 19 Oct. 2009.

“Medical Neglect Related to Religion and Culture,” *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence*, NY: Routledge, 2007:475-483.

“Religious Attitudes Toward Corporal Punishment,” *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence*, NY: Routledge, 2007:205-208.

“When faith fails children—religion-based medical neglect: pervasive, deadly. . . and legal?” *The Humanist* (November/December 2000):11-16.

“Oregon’s great leap forward,” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 27 Aug. 1999.

“On statutes depriving a class of children of rights to medical care: can this discrimination be litigated?,” *Quinnipiac Health Law Journal* v. II, issue 1 (1998):73-95.

“Child fatalities from religion-motivated medical neglect,” *Pediatrics* 101(April 1998):625-9 (Seth Asser is senior author).

“Letting children die for the faith,” *Free Inquiry* 19 (winter 1998).

“The children we abandon: medical neglect on religious grounds,” *American Atheist* (autumn 1998):22-26).

“Perspectives: Religion-based medical neglect and corporal punishment must not be tolerated,” *The APSAC Advisor* 11(spring 1998):2-3.

- “Children, medicine, religion, and the law,” *Advances in Pediatrics* 44 (1997): 491-543.
- “Discrimination de jure: religious exemptions for medical neglect.” *The APSAC Advisor* 7 (winter 1994): 35-8.
- “Public policy: religious exemptions.” *Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior Letter* January 1993: 2-3.
- The Law's Response when Religious Beliefs against Medical Care Impact on Children.* Sioux City: CHILD Inc., 1990.
- “First Amendment does not give the right to injure children.” *The Los Angeles Times* 14 July 1990: F16.
- “Fragile life: religious beliefs that kill children.” *Kentucky Hospitals* (winter 1989): 8-12.
- “Barriers to medical care of children: how you can help.” *The Exchangite* (Jan.-Feb. 1989): 6-7.
- “Review of The Health and Wealth Gospel by Bruce Barron.” *Cultic Studies Journal* 5.1 (1988): 136-9.
- “Spiritual healing claims wither on the vine of investigation.” *New York City Tribune* 28 January 1988: 8.
- “The law should protect all children.” *Journal of Christian Nursing* (spring 1987): 40.
- “Christian Science, faith healing, and the law.” *Free Inquiry* (spring 1984): 4-9.
- “Faith healing, Christian Science, and the medical care of children.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 309 (29 December 1983): 1639-41.
- “Laws protect parents who let children die.” *USA Today* 17 August 1983: 8A.
- “Faith healing sects and children's rights to medical care.” *Proceedings of the Fifth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.* Milwaukee: Region V Child Abuse and Neglect Resource Center, 1982.
- “Christian Science: Threat to Children?” *A. D.* (July-Aug. 1980): 25-6.

Presentations

- Freedom from Religion Foundation Conference, Madison WI, 10 Oct. 2015
- Pediatric House Staff Alumni Association Conference, Gainesville FL, 8 Nov. 2014
- First Coast Child Protection Team talk, Jacksonville FL, 7 Nov. 2014
- Northwest Peers meeting, Olympia WA, 15 Jan. 2014
- St. Martin's University campus talk, Lacey WA, 15 Jan. 2014
- Child-friendly Faith Project conference, Austin TX, “Religion, culture, and criminal law,” 8 November 2013
- Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Child Maltreatment Symposium, “Medical Neglect Related to Religion and Culture,” 26 September 2013
- American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter Advocacy Summit, Schaumburg IL, “Persistence Counts,” 16 March 2012
- Center for Inquiry/Council for Secular Humanism Conference, Orlando FL, “Oregon Reforms the Child Abuse Shield Law,” 2 March 2012
- Northwest Freethought Conference, Portland OR, 26 March 2011
- Salem Humanists, Salem OR, 22 February 2011
- Oregon State University Hundere Lecture in Religion and Culture, Corvallis OR, 28 January 2010
- Iowa Society for Consumer Healthcare Advocacy, Iowa City, 20 October 2006

Morningside College ACAS lecture, "When Religion Endangers Children," Sioux City IA, 26 February 2003

Florida's First Coast Conference on Child Maltreatment, Jacksonville, 19 April 2001

Northern New England Conference on Child Maltreatment, Portland ME, 18 September 2000

National Association of Counsel for Children, Portland OR, 10 October 1999

American Family Foundation, Chicago, 14 November 1998

American Atheists, Washington DC, 13 June 1998

San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment, 28 January 1998, on "Religion-based Medical Neglect: Update on the Status of Children We Abandon"

Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, Minneapolis, 19 August 1997

Council on Child Abuse for Southern Ohio, Cincinnati, 10 June 1997

Mayo Clinic Family Practice Residents Seminar, Rochester MN, 6 June 1997

Training conducted for Iowa child abuse investigators in Iowa City, Des Moines, and Newton 30 March 1995, 10 May 1995, 19 June 1995, 2 November 1995, and 9 May 1996

National Child Abuse Coalition, Washington D.C., "The Religious Exemption Issue in the 1995 CAPTA Hearings," 13 December 1994

Freedom from Religion Foundation conference, "Medical Neglect of Children on Religious Grounds," Madison WI, 1 October 1994

Third Central Midwest Conference on Child Abuse, Moline IL, 1 April 1993

National Association of Counsel for Children conference, Philadelphia PA, "Religiously-based Medical Neglect: Legal Child Abuse?," a plenary lecture and "Cultural Barriers to Medical Care of Children," a workshop, 19 October 1992

St. Luke's Child Protection Center conference, Cedar Rapids IA, 1 October 1992, on "Medical Neglect of Children on Religious Grounds"

St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Sioux City IA, 22 September 1992, pediatric inservice on "Cultural Barriers to Medical Care of Children"

Marian Health Center and Siouxland Council on Child Abuse and Neglect conference, Sioux City IA, 29 April 1992, on "Cultural Barriers to Medical Care of Children"

Iowa School Nurses Organization spring conference, Des Moines IA, 11 April 1992, on "Equal Rights for Children under the Law"

Iowa Chapter of National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse spring conference, Des Moines IA, 10 April 1992, on "Medical Neglect in the Context of Religious Beliefs"

United States Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect hearings, Los Angeles, 3 April 1992, on "Public Policy on Religiously-based Medical Neglect"

San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment 1992, San Diego, 24 January 1992, on "Medical Neglect in the Context of Religious Beliefs," a general session lecture

University of California at San Diego Medical Center, San Diego, 21 January 1992, pediatric grand rounds on "Medical Neglect and Religious Exemptions"

27th Annual Postgraduate Symposium on Medicine and Religion, Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City KS, 16 October 1991, on "The Christian Science Parent in a Health Care Crisis"

Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, Los Angeles, 11 July 1991, presentation on deaths of Christian Science children

Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, Minneapolis, 25 June 1991, grand rounds presentation for hospital staff on "Ethical Issues: Withholding Medical Care on Religious Grounds"

Regional Conference on Medical Neglect of Children, Council Bluffs IA, 30 November 1990, on "Medical Neglect: Public Policy and Public Scrutiny"

Cult Awareness Network Conference, Teaneck NJ, 27 October 1989, on "Child Abuse and Medical Neglect"

Symposium in Pediatric Medical Ethics, Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital, Orlando, 8 November 1988, on "Children's Rights to Medical Care"

Cult Awareness Network Conference, Washington DC, 19 March 1988, on "Public Policy on Sectarian Medical Neglect"

Seventh National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Chicago, November 1985, on "Religious Exemptions from Parental Duties of Care"

Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, Buffalo, 28 October 1983, on "Paranormal Health Cures"

Fifth National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Milwaukee, April 1981, three-hour workshop on "Faith Healing Sects and Children's Rights to Medical Care"

Testimony before Legislatures

Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee, April 2011

Oregon House Judiciary Committee, February 2011

Wisconsin House Children and Families Committee, March 2010

Nebraska Unicameral Health and Human Services Committee, January 2007, February 2006, and January 2000

Iowa House Education Subcommittee, January 2006

Maine Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, May 2005

Nebraska Unicameral Education Committee, February 2005

Rhode Island House Health, Education, and Welfare Committee, February 2004

Missouri House Judiciary Committee, April 2003

Colorado Senate Health, Environment, Children, and Families Committee, March 2001

Maryland House Judiciary Committee, March 2001

Colorado House Criminal Justice Committee, February 2001

Oregon House Criminal Law Committee, March 1999

South Dakota House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees, February 1998

Michigan House Judiciary Committee, February 1997

U. S. Senate Labor and Human Resources staff briefing, June 1995

Minnesota House Judiciary Committee, March 1994

Minnesota House Judiciary Committee, December 1991

Minnesota Senate Judiciary Committee, March 1991

South Dakota House State Affairs Committee, January 1990

California Assembly Committee on Public Safety, October 1989

Ohio House Children and Youth Committee, March 1989

Ohio House Children and Youth Subcommittee, March 1985

North Dakota House, January 1979

Honors

Lifetime achievement award, Freedom from Religion Foundation, 10 Oct. 2015

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber's Proclamation, 18 Sept. 2013
 President's Certificate for Outstanding Service given by the American Academy of Pediatrics, 16 March 2012
 Outstanding social justice work award given by the Iowa Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, 6 June 2010
 Honoris causa award given by Omicron Delta Kappa chapter at Morningside College, 27 April 2003
 Outstanding legal advocacy award given by National Association of Counsel for Children, 1 October 2001
 Iowa volunteerism award given by Governor Tom Vilsack, 24 September 2001
 Child advocacy service award given by Oregon Pediatric Society, 17 June 2000
 Award for child advocacy given by Oregon Peace Officers Association Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Investigators, 2 November 1999
 Distinguished alumna award from Emporia State University, 21 October 1994
 Award for risk-taking and service given by The Giraffe Project in Langley, Washington, 12 January 1993
 Human rights service award given by Sioux City Human Rights Commission, 2 May 1991
 Child advocacy service award given by South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 14 September 1990
 Listing in *Who's Who in the Midwest*, *Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America*, *World Who's Who of Women*, *Baron's Who's Who of the World*, and other directories

Television appearances

KJRH news, Tulsa OK, 23 May 2012
 KOTV news, Tulsa OK, 22 May 2012
 TruTv, *In Session*, 18 May 2010
 CNBC *Diabetes Life*, 16 August 2009
 PBS *Religion and Ethics*, 17 May 2009
 Arts and Entertainment *Investigative Reports*, *Prayer and Healing: Power or Placebo?*, 17 December 2001
 Court TV *Crier Today*, 31 July 2000
 Fox National Evening News, 21 June 1999
 NBC 30, Hartford CT, April 1999
Leeza, November 1998
 KETV "You Paid for It," 31 Jan. 1997
 NBC *Today*, 23 October 1998, 6 July 1990, and 20 September 1983
 KATU Evening News, Portland, April 1998
 WKBT LaCrosse, *Hurting or Healing*, February 1994
The Shirley Show, Canadian television, 1 February 1994
 WPVI A. M. *Philadelphia*, 19 February 1991
Evening Magazine, August 1990
Inside Report, 16 July 1990
This Evening, July 1989
 KOMO Seattle, *Town Meeting*, 20 November 1988

KPNX Phoenix, *God is my Doctor*, 13-16 November 1988
 KUSA Denver, *In God's Hands*, 4 October 1988
 British Independent Television, *Good Morning Britain*, June 1988
 ABC *Nightline*, 17 June 1988
 KING Seattle, *Good Company*, 1 June 1988
 ABC 20/20, 6 May 1988
 NBC *Nightly News*, 26 April 1988 and 5 July 1990
 WJW Cleveland, *When Faith is Fatal*, week of 13 November 1987
 WTVN Columbus, Midday program, 28 January 1987
 WTVN Columbus, *Discover Columbus*, 17 March 1985
 WTOL Toledo, *All Things New*, 27 January 1985
 CBS *Crossroads*, 27 June 1984
 KPIX San Francisco, *People are Talking*, 23 May 1984 and 11 September 1989
 KATU Portland OR, *Town Hall*, 9 May 1984
 KDKA Pittsburgh, *Pittsburgh 2Day*, May 1980, 17 January 1984, and 8 January 1987
Break Away, 24 February 1984
 KTIV Sioux City, 29 December 1983, et al.
 KCAU Sioux City, six interviews since August 1983
 KYW Philadelphia, *People are Talking*, May 1980 and 1 November 1983
 WBZ Boston, *People are Talking*, 17 October 1983
 PBS *Latenight*, May 1982
 Detroit, *Kelly and Company*, May 1982
 Baltimore, *People are Talking*, May 1980
 Detroit, *Good Morning, Detroit*, December 1979
Donahue, November 1979 and 17 May 1988

Radio interviews

“Interfaith Voices” and “Here and Now” on National Public Radio, other NPR programs, two podcasts on Freethought Radio, Atlanta, Washington DC, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Tampa, Rochester, Tucson, Phoenix, Seattle, Los Angeles, Miami, Providence, San Antonio, San Francisco, et al.

Education

Vanderbilt University	Ph.D. in English, 1975
University of Wisconsin	M. A. in English, 1965
Emporia State University	B. A. in English, 1963

Court-Appointed Special Advocate for Children

CASA training completed in 2000; appointed on four cases from 2000-2006