Child Advocacy Activities of Rita Swan

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Publications
“Pulse oximetry should be required without a religious exemption.” American Journal of Bioethics, 16:1, 26-28, DOI: 10.1080/15265161.2015.1115151
The Last Strawberry (Dublin: Hag’s Head Press, 2010).
“Matthew, you cannot be sick,” Dublin Review 37 (winter 2009-10)43-69.
“First Amendment does not give the right to injure children.” The Los Angeles Times 14 July 1990: F16.
“Laws protect parents who let children die.” USA Today 17 August 1983: 8A.

Presentations
Freedom from Religion Foundation Conference, Madison WI, 10 Oct. 2015
Pediatric House Staff Almuni Association Conference, Gainesville FL, 8 Nov. 2014
First Coast Child Protection Team talk, Jacksonville FL, 7 Nov. 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
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
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
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
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"
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"
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

**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
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
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
*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