

***Narrative (for Appeal) - Related to Zora E. Miller - Sprouse - Roby's 13 children***

**Date:**2017-10-27 18:10

**From:**Susan Cassady Neuhart [redacted]

**To:**rreynold@fccs.us, blcadwal@fccs.us, srwakely@fccs.us,  
311@columbus.gov, Susancn [redacted]

<http://childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/about/contact-us.cfm>

**10-27-2017**

TO: [Employee "Richard Reynolds"](#) Franklin County, Ohio, Children's Services "Legal Department" (FCCS) { pdf (page 7) " If your case is closed please contact Richard Reynolds of the Legal department. His number is 614-275-2584." Called, 11-1-2017 – regarding my intention to post this appeal document – in progress.

**CC:**

[FCCS Executive Director, Charles M. Spinning;](#)

[FCCS COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIRECTOR, BRUCE CADWALLADER;](#)

[Deborrha Armstrong, FCCS Communications Director;](#)

and, [Columbus, Ohio MAYOR, Andrew Ginther](#) [ [FAM-JAM](#) ].

NOTE: *I support Columbus, Ohio, Mayor Ginther & the Ohio Democratic party with my web site (now, under construction) <http://hansandcassady.org/>*

It is my intention to place the redacted Appeal (document) - filed today - and, your subsequent reply - onto my personal web site.

**Dear Employee "Richard Reynold" [Franklin County, Ohio, Children's Services](#):**

**Thank you for your message - 2017-10-26 08:39 - (shown below).**

Your instructions are clear; however, I did Request Records & Information - in the manner instructed - previously. **My request was denied.**

This occurred circa 2014-15. A health relapse (from my stroke) has prevented me from responding - in full - previously. I am somewhat recuperated at this writing.

Thus, I have filed an Appeal (today) using the Online form provided - at your agency web site: ( The narrative of my appeal follows. )

## **Narrative (for Appeal) - Related to Zora E. Miller - Sprouse - Roby's 13 children**

<https://externalfccsapps.fccs.franklin.oh.us/clientrights/Lists/Appeals%20and%20Grievances/NewAppeal.aspx?RootFolder=/clientrights/Lists/AppealsandGrievances&ContentTypeId=0x01000370A11E858F084D941856D3049ECC4B0098C4547AE8B64C4495B2C1EDAAF2FF29&Source=/clientrights/Pages/public.aspx> [ Please cut & paste to browser ]

**NOTE:** The "assistant" to Charles M. Spinning was very helpful - related to my original request.

Submitted-10-27-2017-FCCH (using the online Form provided. **Narrative (for Appeal) :**

### **I seek to know:**

1) **Why** were my grandmother's children "taken from her" in a legal proceeding - at the Franklin County Court House?

And,

2) **Did** the facts: **a)** that my maternal grandmother had "dark skin"; and, **b)** perhaps married a negro man - I only know [of him] by the name "Jerry Roby" - play a role in the treatment - that she received - in the Franklin County, Ohio Court System, circa 1925?

[ that is, according to the oral history (that I have) my grand mother's 13 natural children were "taken" from her].

3) If, I am "mixed race"- and/or my grandmother [ Zora Elizabeth Miller Sprouse Roby] was African American - I feel that I have the right to know (if FCCS records state - or indicate - this).

4) Moreover, I feel, as a "direct descendant", that I have the right to know why were my grandmother's children "taken from her" in a legal proceeding ( circa 1929) - at the Franklin County Court House - and, placed into the FCC-Home?

[ The person - at the [Franklin County Ohio "Clerk of Courts Office"](#) - stated (to me) she "has no records - prior to the 1970s".

**I did file a "Request for Records" circa 2014 - as per the instructions shown on the cited FORM (below).** That request was denied - by the assistant to FCCS Executive Director: Mr. [Charles M. Spinning](#) - and, perhaps Mr. Spinning (also) was involved. This, I do not know. Nor, am I aware - at this writing - of the "reason" for the denial.

**On 10-26-2017, I received an Email (from [RReynold@FCCS.us](mailto:RReynold@FCCS.us) - Franklin County Children Services ...) that instructed me "... complete a Request for**

***Narrative (for Appeal) - Related to Zora E. Miller - Sprouse - Roby's 13 children***

Information Consent form - located on our public website (Google: Franklin County Children Services). ..." I did this - as instructed AND I also did previously do this - circa 2014-2015. Thus, this is an "Appeal" - of the previous denial. My health and circumstances, did not permit me to file this appeal - previously. The URL of interest is:

<https://externalfccsapps.fccs.franklin.oh.us/External%20Forms/Consent%20for%20Information%20Release%20Form.pdf>

**The Appeal URL is:**

<https://externalfccsapps.fccs.franklin.oh.us/clientrights/Lists/Appeals%20and%20Grievances/NewAppeal.aspx> ? RootFolder=/clientrights/Lists/Appeals and Grievances&ContentTypeId=0x01000370A11E858F084D941856D3049ECC4B0098C4547AE8B64C4495B2C1EDAAF2FF29&Source=/clientrights/Pages/public.aspx

**My name is Susan Marie CassAdy - Neuhart.** CassAdy is my maiden Name before my marriage to: Hans Neuhart. We have been married for 35+ years. I have one daughter. She was born in 1973.

My biological mother was: Mary Elizabeth Sprouse - CassAdy. Sprouse was her surname before her marriage to: Milo Gerald CassAdy (my biological father).

I was born in 1954. My maternal Grandmother was:

Zora Elizabeth Miller - Sprouse - Roby. She was born in 1883.

She was married to: George Allen Sprouse [ He is my - biological and maternal grandfather].

George passed circa 1928. Zora married a man (Jerry Roby) after George (my biological grandfather) died.

Zora passed - in 1953 - one year before I was born.

My mother ( Zora's daughter- MARY ) passed circa 1988.

**Thus, "Consent" from my grandmother (Zora) or my mother (Mary) is not possible to obtain.**

***Narrative (for Appeal) - Related to Zora E. Miller - Sprouse - Roby's 13 children***

**ORAL HISTORY: I grew up with an oral history - frequently stated to me - that:** " Zora (my grandmother) went to the Franklin County [ Ohio] Court House ( with my mother - as a small child at her side ) and a person wearing a robe [ my mother thought that he was a "King" ] rose up and pointed his finger at Zora - and, stated - to the effect - her children (Zora's children) would be "taken" - and, placed into the Home." I was further told, (that) before they were physically parted - Zora was permitted to grasp my mother's small hand. Zora stated, to my mother (Mary Elizabeth Sprouse) that she [ my mother] should remember that "...there were 13 children..." My senior sisters - who saw Zora (as a senior lady) - stated that she had "dark skin and long, white, braided hair". They further stated, that a "colored man" once came to our house ( in Columbus, Ohio) "dressed very nicely" - after Zora had passed. The man did ask for my mother (by her name): "Is Mary here?" However, my mother refused to speak with him - and, he left. The image of Zora's gravestone is posted - onto my web site. > [LINK](#) <

**Now, some few years ago [circa 2013] my husband purchased (for me) the services of a professional genealogist.** This person obtained (for me) the population schedule of the Franklin County Children's Home [ date: April 3, 1930]. I have posted an image of this document onto my "personal" web site: Hans AND CassAdey dot ORG. > [LINK](#) <. When you view the image, you will see there are four Sprouse children shown: Charles, George Jr., Mary & Leroy - all Sprouse. Lines 64-66, 99. My uncle, known to me as "Chuck" is shown as " Charles - a 7-year-old negro male. My mother "Mary" is shown as a 13 year old white female. She was born in November of 1916 - thus, her 14th birthday had not arrived yet. My uncle Chuck - in fact - owned a small cabin - on Buckeye Lake, Ohio. He kept a "speed-boat" there. Our large family - 7 children and 2 adults - visited and stayed with "Uncle Chuck" several times. He had a German Shepherd dog - named "Sammy" - that I brushed - gleefully - for many long hours. Uncle Chuck had dark skin (then) - however, my mother explained (to me) - this, was the result of her brother "Uncle Chuck" - riding in on Buckeye Lake (so often) in his boat. In fact, my Uncle Chuck had been in the USA Armed Services - for WW2 - as were, George Jr., Leroy and Springer [all surname "Sprouse" ]. My sister did have a photo [ from **the Columbus Dispatch** or **Citizen's Journal** newspapers] showing my four uncles - wearing their military uniforms. It is my understanding (that) each Uncle was in a different branch of the USA Service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines.

**Not shown (in the 1930 FCCH population listing) are the maternal aunts -** that I did grow up knowing quite well: Lenora (Lena) Sprouse; and, Lois Sprouse; and seven other children - (that) my mother told me frequently about the existence

## ***Narrative (for Appeal) - Related to Zora E. Miller - Sprouse - Roby's 13 children***

of - in her memory.

In fact, your records - of the era - may record (the facts) that **my mother [Mary Elizabeth Sprouse]** "ran away" from [the Franklin County Children's Home](#) - with her sisters. They made it to Portsmouth, Ohio; Where, my mother and her sisters - were raped; by boys - who had agreed to take them across the Ohio river (using their - the boy's - boat); But, half way across the Ohio river - [in fact] the boys confronted the girls (all, who did not know how to swim) with the proposition: "*Put out - or get out.*" All of them survived the crossing; and, they were recovered (at another relative's home - in the Fullerton/South Shore Kentucky area) by officers (of the law) bearing "badges" and large flashlights. My mother spoke of these events often (to me). After their "capture", she and, her sisters - were subsequently placed into a [Catholic convent](#) - located on West Broad Street (in Columbus, Ohio). She did not become pregnant. She stayed in the Catholic convent - until she was 18 years old. Whereupon, she was discharged and worked in a "shoe factory" - in downtown Columbus, Ohio. During that same year, my father ( Milo Gerald CassAdy) met her and soon married her. Over the course of 30 years, they had- and raised -7 children - together; My mother also helped raise the 2 children - that resulted from my father's first marriage. This enabled my father's "first wife" - to work at the Columbus General Motors factory. My mother (and her) even became friends. Bobby & Carolyn CassAdy - are my half-brother & sister. Again, my mother (Mary) and my father (Milo) were married for 30 years - before my father passed - in 1963 (related to Mesothelioma and Cancer ).

**Again, I seek to know: 1)** Why were my grandmother's children "taken from her" in a legal proceeding? And, **2)** Did the facts: **a)** that my grandmother had "dark skin"; and, **b)** perhaps married a negro man - circa 1929 (I only know [of him] by the name "Jerry Roby") play a role in the cruel treatment - that my grandmother received - in the Franklin County, Ohio Court System? **3)** If, I am "mixed race" - and/or my grandmother [ Zora Elizabeth Miller Sprouse Roby] was African American - I feel that I have the right to know (if FCCS records state this).

**4)** Moreover, I feel, as a "direct descendant", that I have the right to know - why were my grandmother's children "taken from her" in a legal proceeding - at the Franklin County Court House - and, placed into the FCC-Home? Circa 1929.

The person - at the [Franklin County "Clerk of Courts Office"](#) - stated (to me) she "has no records - prior to the 1970s".

***[ That is, according to the oral history (that I have) - Zora's 13 children were "taken" from her- without cause.]***

My mother told me many times, that Zora did not harm her – or, permit her to be harmed; however, they were poor; And, lived on a farm (with a large “Bull” in a barn) – on the outskirts of Columbus, Ohio. - This place was described (to me). My mother spoke of her father (George's) death - and, Zora's attempts to comfort him - from his excessive swelling. [? Leukemia?]

**I am working with the human Genetics Department ( of the company called "23andME")** - to see if their DNA-technology has evolved to the point, that they can reliably ( that is, in legally rigorous terms) state - by use of their "DNA ancestry testing" product - that, I am "mixed race". It is slow going. Obviously, there are significant legal ramifications - if, a person - who claims to be a "minority" - is NOT (in fact) a minority. A recent story involving the [NAACP](#) is a good example of this. Thus, this company is being "understandably - very careful - about answering my questions related to racial genetics - and phenotypic alleles. [Which are forms of a gene]. I (personally) have never stated - that I was "mixed race" - to obtain employment advantage. At this time, I am "retired" - and, very satisfied - with this status. In fact, if my maternal grandmother (Zora) was African American, (then) my mother (her daughter Mary) was very light-skinned. My maternal Aunt Lena [however] was "dark skinned" - as was my maternal Aunt Lois. My mother always stated (to me) that she was "white". I was told to identify myself as a Caucasian - if asked. Which, I always have. My father (Milo Gerald CassAdy), is the brother of "Pearl CassAdy" - who is the father of [Howard 'hopalong' CassAdy](#). Howard won the Heisman trophy - in 1955. My father's race is not in question (to me). He was a Caucasian man.

**Finally, I would be very proud to learn that my grandmother [Zora] was [YES] African American;** and, this fact is reflected (and recorded) in the 1920's era Ohio Court Records[ of the FCCH]. If proven, this fact would also answer some questions - that have arisen - in recent years (2012) - which, this is why, I am in such serious pursuit of this knowledge.

**ONE**, the "stroke" - that I suffered (SAH at my MCA) - 2012; is, statistically uncommon [NOTE 1] for a wholly Caucasian women;  
And, **TWO** - at 63 years old - I remain very "flexible" - and, can perform many difficult (level) YOGA poses - with relative ease. And, only from my personal observation - this seems "uncommon" for a wholly Caucasian women. Which, [I agree] this may be attributed to nothing more than my attitude and "desire" -

***Narrative (for Appeal) - Related to Zora E. Miller - Sprouse - Roby's 13 children***

relative to YOGA poses. That is, for whatever reason (perhaps genetics?) - I desire to perform "difficult" YOGA poses. In fact, I do this daily - at the Dayton, Ohio area "Kleptz" YMCA.

My husband (of 35 years), Hans Neuhart and my daughter ( "Dawn Marie Burton" - employed by the USA-FBI ) have "no problem" with learning that I am a "mixed race" person.

**I just want to know:** Did race play a factor? Who, was the Judge? Why? Why were Zora's children "taken" from her? And, why was my mother - in the "population" of the FCCH - circa 1930?

**Very important! My mother never stated (to me) that she was EVER treated cruelly - or harmfully - at the FCCH.** Rather, it was my impression, she was "running to" her relative's home - in Kentucky - And, she was NOT "running away from" the FCCH. Indeed, she told me that she was fed regularly - and well. She had her own bed. Her "specialty" assigned task - which, she took pride in showing me often, was "peeling potatoes". [In fact] my mother could peel a potato - with a paring knife, producing only one thin, long, piece of peel - per Idaho potato - top to bottom. She'd learned to remove the "eyes" and "bad spots" efficiently and smoothly. This, she stated, she learned - from caring hands - at the FCCH. And, my mother was a very enthusiastic "house-cleaner". She took great pride - in how clean our house [with 9 persons] always was. My mother was warm and generous. Thus, FCCH and a Columbus, Ohio Catholic convent played a significant - and positive - role in my mother's up-bringing. And, not one, of my mother's seven biological children - has ever been involved in illegal activities - OR, a "burden on our American society".

I look forward to hearing from you - and, providing additional information - as it becomes necessary.

**Very Truly, Mrs. Susan [CassAdy] Neuhart ( Grand Daughter of Zora Elizabeth Miller- Sprouse - Roby [ 1883- 1953 ]**

REFERENCES AND NOTES::

Census IMAGE URL:

<http://hansandcassady.org/ZoraDOCs1transmittal Page 3.jpg>

Notes that appear on document: " Charles, George Jr., Mary & Leroy Sprouse 1930

**Narrative (for Appeal) - Related to Zora E. Miller - Sprouse - Roby's 13 children**

Census image Lines 64-66, 99 OH Franklin, Columbus Roll 1794, P.16, ED#50  
Image 7?

(Miss) Philomena M. Schott – Enumerator, Institution: Franklin County  
Children's Home

**NOTE 1:** <http://thejns.org/doi/10.3171/JNS-07/09/0522>

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On 2017-10-26 08:39, Franklin Cnty Children Services ([rreynold@fccs.us](mailto:rreynold@fccs.us)) wrote:

In order to request records from the agency you will need to complete a Request for Information Consent form located on our public website (Google Franklin County Children Services). Under the Resources tab there is a tab for forms and under that you will find the consent form. It's a pdf. Print it off and complete the form. If you need more space, feel free to attach a separate sheet of paper. The instruction sheet provides you a good fax number and mailing address. Records are confidential by Ohio law and can not be released outside the agency without the Executive Director's approval for good cause shown. We are not able to release records pertaining to another person to you without that person's consent. They can authorize their records to be released to you. You will also need to provide a copy of a photo ID such as a driver's license or state ID with your request. Once I receive the request, I will process it in accordance with the Agency's policy regarding the release of information.  
[end]