

Statement of Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
March 25, 2009

I have been involved in my children's lives since they were born. I have four beautiful daughters at different stages of development. As a responsible parent, I am attempting to raise respectful, positive and healthy children who will hopefully grow to have these attributes when they become adults. I am deeply saddened that my parenting skills and motives have been called into question.

State law requires social workers and medical personnel to report claims of harm to children. The reporting requirement compels all claims to be reported and there is no discretion or investigative function required of those compelled to make their reports to law enforcement. A spanking can be alleged to be such a cause of harm.

I am disappointed in the public spotlight being put on my children – minors who would otherwise be protected by confidentiality rules meant to prevent further harm. As a public figure, nothing can shield me or my family from this scrutiny, otherwise there would be whispers of “preferential treatment.”

Nevertheless I ask that my family be granted the privacy it deserves during this difficult time.

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