

THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR APOLOGIES FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS CASE WAS HANDLED.

THE BALL WAS DROPPED AT SEVERAL STAGES AND THE RESULT WAS A WEEK OF CONFUSION, MISINFORMATION AND PUBLICITY THAT CAST A SHADOW OVER THE MANY GOOD PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE AND LEGAL AGENCIES OF OUR COUNTY.

THE INITIAL MISTAKE OCCURRED WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FORWARDED TO MY OFFICE A REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF PATERNITY WHICH THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY FOUND "GOOD CAUSE" NOT TO REQUIRE ESTABLISHMENT OF PATERNITY BECAUSE OF MR. MARSILIO'S ACTIONS, AND HAD GIVEN THE VICTIM BENEFITS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES WITHOUT PROVIDING THIS INFORMATION, SENT A REFERRAL TO OUR OFFICE AND OUR FAMILY SUPPORT UNIT PROCESSED THE CASE AS A REGULAR PATERNITY ACTION WITHOUT INCORPORATING THE NEW STATUTORY PROCEDURES FOR WHICH WE ARE HERE TODAY.

THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ERROR AND HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO MAKE SURE THAT IF WE HAVE ANY SIMILAR CASES THEY WILL BE HANDLED CORRECTLY IN THE FUTURE.

I BELIEVE THE COURT'S PROMPT STAYING OF THE ORIGINAL ORDER WAS PRUDENT AND I CONCUR WITH THE STEPS REQUESTED TODAY TO CORRECT THE SITUATION.

IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO APPOLOGIZE TO THE VICTIM WHO HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO RELIVING THIS EVENT IN HER LIFE. I AM APPALLED THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD USE THIS UNFORTUNATE CASE AND OUR COUNTY TO PROMOTE THEIR AGENDAS.

IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTY WHO WORK TIRELESSLY TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS. I HOPE THAT THE HANDLING OF THIS CASE WILL NOT DETER THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS.

WE HAVE A PROUD HISTORY IN THIS AREA. SANILAC COUNTY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTY'S IN THE STATE TO EMPLOY A CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS ADVOCATE. WE HAVE AN ACTIVE AND VIGILENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT COUNCEL. WE HAVE A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER THAT COORDINATES THE RELEVANT AGENCIES WHEN A CASE INVOLVING A CHILD OCCURS. OUR VOTERS HAVE DESIGNATED A MILLAGE TO SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS.

WE HAVE A SOLID AND SUCCESSFUL TRADITION OF PROTECTING THE VICTIMS OF CRIMES AND I AND MY OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS THAT END.