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MEMORANDUM

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL

**TO:** NEWS MEDIA

**FROM:** ELLIOTT C. WINOGRAD, Chairman of Medical-Legal Committee  
Nassau County Bar Association (516) 357-3000

**DATE:** July 26, 1990

**TOPIC:** Symposium on Drug Addicted Infants and the impact on  
Nassau and Suffolk Counties

**BY-LINE:** "Major Symposium Announced on Drug Addicted Infants in  
Nassau and Suffolk Counties"

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Elliott C. Winograd, Chairman of the Medical-Legal Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association has announced that a major symposium will be presented on the topic "Pregnant Drug Addicts and the Future of their Children in our Society and the Impact on Nassau and Suffolk Counties".

On Tuesday, November 13th, 1990, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at Touro Law School in Huntington, New York, the Health & Law Society of Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, (Ms. Cathy Gursky, Chairperson) in cooperation with the Nassau County Bar Association and the Suffolk County Bar Association, are jointly sponsoring a symposium in the form of a Town Hall meeting on the topic "Pregnant Drug Addicts and the Future of Their Children In Our Society and the Impact on Nassau and Suffolk Counties." This program is expected to be carried live on T.V. Channels 12 and 21 with Mr. Winograd as the moderator.

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Babies born with a positive toxicology for drugs, especially cocaine, is a problem rapidly gaining notoriety as the issue of the 1990's. In light of very recent Appellate Court rulings by the virtue of the fact that an infant tests positive upon birth, neglect proceedings can be instituted with an eye toward ultimate removal of the infant from his mother. Nassau and Suffolk Counties are not immune to this serious problem. In Nassau and Suffolk Counties alone, approximately ten percent of all infants born on an annual basis will test positive to some degree of drug addiction and can potentially cost the taxpayers approximately 7.5 Million Dollars over the life of each addicted child.

How much would it cost to prevent babies from being born with a positive toxicology? How much does it cost on an average to care for a premature baby born to a drug addict in neonatal intensive care units? What effects does drugs have on their development? Is there available foster care for drug addicted babies?

The above are just but a few questions which do not even begin to scratch the surface of the iceberg concerning the serious problems that Nassau and Suffolk Counties, along with the rest of the county are confronted with in the 1990's and into the future.



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The objective of the symposium is to join together various disciplines to open the lines of communication between those who are committed to helping our society by assisting the pregnant women and the unborn; to identify the obstacles encountered by pregnant drug abusers seeking help for their drug problem when they discover they are pregnant and who are also seeking early prenatal care; to educate the public of the urgent need for treatment facilities for these women; to enlighten the professionals of the various issues involved in this crises; to confront the severe ramifications of misguided or uninformed decision making by those with authority to have an impact in these women's lives; and to develop a working relationship between all concerned so we may attack this problem in force and prevent many tragedies in the future. Of course, the purpose of the symposium would be to promote healthy pregnancies at minimal cost to the individual woman and her fetus and society, by utilizing an interdisciplinary approach to discuss the legal, moral, ethical aspects of both the situation and its potential solutions.

As of this date, the following persons have committed themselves to participating in this program as panelists:

1. Honorable Thomas S. Gulotta - Nassau County  
Executive;

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2. Honorable Patrick G. Halpin - Suffolk County Executive;
3. Sen. Thomas W. Libous, Chairman of the Committee on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse;
4. Professor Barbara Swartz - Criminal Law Professor - Touro Law School (renowned author and lecturer);
5. Dr. Lynn Patlow - Constitutional lawyer - ACLU (has argued numerous cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and is an expert in the area of prenatal drug abuse);
6. Barbara Lynaugh of the Suffolk County Family Court - Suffolk County Legal Aid Society (attorney and R.N.);
7. Honorable Sandra Feurstein, Judge of the Nassau County District Court;
8. Honorable Burton S. Joseph, Supervising Judge of the Family Court of Nassau County;
9. Hazel Fisher, Assistant Director of the Suffolk County Child Protection Services;
10. Dr. Mary Brandt, a geneticist-pediatrician of the Suffolk County Public Health Department;
11. Dr. Raymond Horowitz - President of the Pediatric Society of Nassau County;

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12. Dr. Theodore Briglia - Medical Examiner and Toxicologist;
13. John Malone - Chief Drug Counsellor and Supervisor at the Drug Free Unit of the Crack-Cocaine Program in Suffolk County;
14. Fr. Michael Curran - Professor of Moral Theology - Long Island Catholic Archdiocese;
15. Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman - Congregation Beth Sholom;
16. Rev. Reginald Tuggle - Freeport - Memorial Presbyterian Church;
17. Mona Orange - Director of Suffolk County Executive Office for Women and appointee on the Health Task Force of Suffolk County;
18. Dr. Leon Pearl - Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, Hofstra University .
19. Dr. Peter J. Morton - Chairperson, Department of Economics, Hofstra University.

The symposium will be held at Touro Law School in Huntington. Anyone interested in obtaining a ticket to attend the symposium please write to Ms. Cathy Gursky, Chairperson of Health and Law Society, Touro Law School, 300 Nassau Road, Huntington, New York 11743. You must enclose a self-addressed stamped

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envelope. Seating is limited and is on a first come, first serve basis.

*E. Keith Ching*