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Approximately two weeks ago my client Angels in Waiting a non-profit organization of neonatal pediatric nurses and other professionals who specialize in the care of medically fragile premature infants made an offer to Nadya Suleman who recently gave birth to octuplets and who has six other children as well. The offer made by Angels in Waiting to Nadya presented her with a golden opportunity.

Angels in Waiting proposed that they would provide 24 hour seven day a week wrap around care for Nadya's 14 children in a new home where they could thrive and receive individualized care and support from these professionals. Nadya and her parents would be welcome and the family could be together. Angels in Waiting would ask the public for donations and there would be no burden on the tax payer. The children and Nadya would receive the medical and emotional support which would be extremely important to their future.

We announced that the deadline for Nadya's acceptance of this generous offer would be last night at midnight. We needed to set a deadline because there were reports that three of the infants might be released from the hospital in the next few weeks. Angels in Waiting needed to know if she accepted their offer so they would have time to put their team in place, seek donations and carry out their plan in

a way that would meet their high standards. Last Friday night February 20th, contact was made with Nadya, Linda West-Conforti who is a registered with 25 years pediatrics experience and who is the founder of Angels in Waiting spoke with Nadya on the telephone for more than an hour.

Linda presented Nadya with a concrete plan that was designed to ensure that the children could stay together and that their needs could be met. She explained that Angels in Waiting would provide round the clock nurses and other professionals to help care for these children in a new house with Nadya. Nadya did express some interest and she agreed to come to my office last Monday at 11:00 to meet Linda and explore the proposal further. Linda drove several hours from her home for that pre-arranged meeting but Nadya did not show up.

Instead Nadya's agent (Victor) called and told me while Linda was en route that Nadya couldn't make it because he thought she had a pre existing appointment at Kaiser. The next day Nadya told Linda that the reason she couldn't make it was because Victor couldn't reach his attorney in time to come to the meeting. In any event that meeting never occurred and they did not seek to reschedule it.

Linda's impression of Nadya after talking to her on the telephone several times was that Linda was talking primarily about how she and Angels in Waiting planned to take care of the ocuplets and meet their medical, emotional, and

educational needs while Nadya, in Linda's opinion, seemed more interested with capitalizing on her infants and seem most concerned with doing a reality show. Linda explained to her that Angels in Waiting would not agree to that because of their concern for possible infections that the infants might incur with camera equipment and many other people in the home in addition to the many professionals who would be with the children providing the care. Linda did not wish to risk the health of the little ones. Linda will elaborate on the details of that conversation.

In summary after numerous phone calls Nadya never called back and said the she accepted the plan of Angels in Waiting and therefore our offer expired at midnight last night as we said it would.

Our concern now is that even though Nadya has been in the news we have never heard a concrete plan from her about caring for her 14 children. We haven't heard where they will be housed, who will care for them, whether there will be sufficient funds to support them, whether any of the octuplets have special needs and who will meet those needs if they have them.

Our focus is and always has been on the 14 children and particularly the 8 premature infants. This is an extraordinary situation and the public is concerned as we are about the protection of these children. We believe that the next step should be that the L.A. County of Child and Family Services with whom I have filed a

request for an investigation should make sure that these children are protected. We urge them to meet with Nadya if they have not already done so and ask her the hard questions. They should make sure that she has a concrete and specific plan to meet the complicated medical and emotional needs of all of her 14 children and that if she has a plan that she has the mental, emotional and financial ability to carry out that plan.

Now more than ever it is important that Children's Services and social workers make sure that her plan if any satisfies them and their concern for the health, safety and welfare of all of her children. Until they can be sure that the infants will not be endangered by releasing them to her they should not be released from the hospital into her care and custody.

Children's Services does and always should err on the side of protecting children. If their concerns are not met and if they have legal grounds to do so then Children Service's should remove the infants to foster homes where they can receive the care to which they are entitled.

I commend Angels in Waiting, Linda and all of her professionals for coming forward to present a positive option for Nadya's 14 children. These nurses and other professionals are true heroes for the work that they do for medically fragile high risk infants every day. Angels in Waiting could have provided love and appropriate

support for Nadya's little angels. We know that they will continue to be there for other infants in need in the future and we regret that Nadya did not take this unique opportunity to benefit her children and provide them the early intervention and support which would have been so important to their future.

Gloria Allred
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representing
Angels in Waiting
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During our first phone call, Nadya stated last Friday that hospital social workers, and the Department of Children's Services presented her with my offer. They told her that three of her babies will be discharged from the hospital in two weeks, and if she did not have adequate housing, finance, support, and a nursery set up for the three infants they would have to place the infants into the custody of child protective services. They offered AIW, my group, as a viable alternative and according to Nadya stated "the infants will get the care they would need and give her (Nadya) an additional six months to set up appropriate support, financing and housing".

She stated she reviewed my website and was touched by the stories, and wanted me to promise her I would not adopt out her children. I told her only the Department of Children's Services has that authority.

During the phone interview instead of her asking the appropriate infant care questions such as: Do I know the infant care providers, have they been background checked, Finger printed, drug tested etc.

Nadya asked if we could do a reality show and every two weeks a press conference on how the babies were doing. I told her a reality show is a definite no. I educated

Nadya that we would have a total of 28 people a day in our home, and that her preemies are an open petri dish due to their low immune system .A camera crew with all of their wires, camera, lights and crew would only increase the risk of infections, and I reminded her that it is the height of flu season. She stated she understood but her demeanor seemed to change to "uninterested". Every time I was talking to her about infant care, Nadya would try to redirect our conversation, into how we could make money to support her and her children.

Then she asked me if AIW was expecting her to pay for these services. I told her that America would have an improved image of her if she contributed portions of her funds towards the care of her children. However, AIW would also be seeking funds from the public since we are a nonprofit 501c 3 entity .

At the end of more than an hour phone conversation we made arrangements to meet at Gloria Allred's office the following Monday at 11 o'clock. Nadya, did not show up at Monday's appointment, nor did she attempt to make a follow-up appointment to discuss our arrangement.

In our second phone conversation (Tuesday), I picked up the phone to call a friend and Nadya was on the other line;

Hi Linda? This is Nadya, I had some questions. My babies are not sick. They are healthy I really don't understand why they would need so much nursing

care and wrap around services. I told Nadya, that she has eight healthy 30 week preemies but she cannot forget, they were born two and a half months premature and several of them at extremely low birth weights. To make matters even worse, three of her children are reported to have special needs; all eight of her premature infants need close monitoring for sensory integration disorders, such as not liking skin to skin contact. I went over the signs and symptoms of what behaviors preemies will display when they are experiencing stress, and sensory integration issues. I told her that these observation skills occur with years of experience and it would be difficult to teach a mom who is volunteering to feed one of her eight babies in a medically appropriate manner. I reinforced the concept of the infants need for “continuity of care” and how imperative it is for brain development and bonding. She said she would have to talk to Victor, and that she would definitely call me back.

That evening (Tuesday) I did not receive a call from Nadya, however I did leave a voicemail on her cell phone. That was 6 p.m. Tuesday.

To date Gloria Allred nor I have not received any further communication from Ms Suleman or her publicist Victor. She knew that Thursday was our deadline for acceptance of our offer. Our offer expired last night.

Linda West-Conforti

February 27, 2009