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September 22, 1991

Paul Seidel
Deputy District Attorney
Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Mr. Seidel:

I am deeply concerned and distressed by the arrest of midwife Faye Gibson. I am writing to request that you reconsider any further prosecution against her.

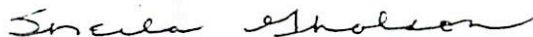
During the last four years I have known Faye Gibson (my daughter is now 4, and although Faye was not my midwife, the midwives in this area form a tight community, and through them I have met Faye). I have never known her to represent herself to anyone as a registered nurse or a nurse midwife. Knowing Faye as a sincere follower of her faith, I have always understood that she functions as a religious practitioner, which I do not believe is prohibited under the law.

It is simply unacceptable to me to see the limited resources of our local government wasted on the prosecution of this non-criminal, who I don't believe has perpetrated any crime!

I pursued a home birth for my daughter when it became clear to me that birthing is a normal physiological function of a healthy woman, and that normal childbearing can most safely be carried out not at a hospital (which is designed for interventive purposes), but at home. My own birthing experience reinforced this belief to the degree that I would encourage any healthy woman who can to take advantage of the midwife resources of our area and bring their most precious gifts into this world within the comfort of their own home.

The spiritual, emotional, and physical bonding that results from a natural birth simply cannot be duplicated by the harsh environment of a hospital and without the deep caring of birthing professionals such as Faye Gibson. Our community must rise to come to her defense.

Sincerely,



Sheila Gholson

CC: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
✓ John Hackman, attorney at law

895 LeCompte Pl
San Jose Ca 95123
Oct 1, 1991

George Kennedy, DA
Santa Clara County Government Center
70 W Hedding
San Jose, Ca 95110

Dear Mr Kennedy,

I am deeply concerned and distressed by the arrest of midwife Faith Gibson and am writing to request that you reconsider any further prosecution.

During the 2 1/2 yrs. I have known her, she has never represented herself to myself or anyone of my acquaintance as either a Registered Nurse or a Nurse-midwife.

Faye is a sincere follower of her faith and she functions appropriately as a religious practitioner, which is not prohibited under current California Law.

She assisted at the normal birth of my son Kyle. There were no complications during the labor nor any need for medical care after the birth.

Our choice of her as an attendant was not because we believed she was either an RN or Certified Nurse-Midwife. It reflected our deeply-held

conscientiously based decision.

It is unacceptable to me to have the limited resource of government wasted on the prosecution of this non-crime.

I find it repugnant that the normal events of my reproductive life should be defined as pathological by the narrow definition of allopathic medicine, a form of care ~~not~~ chose not to use because birth is a normal physiological function of a healthy woman. The narrow view of medicine was used to initiate the police powers of the state to arrest Faye and prevent people like me from following the dictates of our conscience with regard to normal childbearing.

Statistically the safest place for a healthy woman to give birth is not a hospital but in her own home, as has been amply demonstrated again and again in numerous studies around the world.

As I said at the beginning I am deeply concerned and distressed by the arrest of midwife Faith Gibson and request you consider withdrawing the charges against her.

Sincerely,
Agnes L. Lussier

cc

Mr Paul Seidel Dist. DA
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
John Hackman attorney at law