

Timeline of Events:

Unknown Date: Charles Haynes sexually abuses his eldest daughter.

Unknown Date: Charles Haynes admits to sexually abusing his eldest daughter and is convicted.

Unknown Date: Cynthia Randolph files for divorce from Charles Haynes.

Unknown Date: Mikaela Haynes accuses her father, Charles Haynes, of sexually abusing her.

Unknown Date: Jennifer Williams is appointed as guardian ad litem for Mikaela Haynes in the custody dispute between Cynthia Randolph and Charles Haynes.

Unknown Date: Jennifer Williams recommends shared custody of Mikaela be granted to Charles Haynes, despite his conviction for sexual abuse.

Unknown Date: Missouri Circuit Court Judge John Shock follows Williams' recommendation and grants shared custody of Mikaela to her father.

November 23, 2018: With the support of Williams, Charles Haynes asks for probation instead of jail time for his sexual abuse conviction.

November 24, 2018: Mikaela Haynes commits suicide.

December 12, 2018: Charles Haynes begins serving a seven-month sentence for the rape of his eldest daughter after his request for probation is denied.

Unknown Date: Cynthia Randolph files a wrongful death lawsuit against Jennifer Williams.

Unknown Date: Jennifer Williams files a motion to dismiss the wrongful death lawsuit, arguing she had no duty to protect Mikaela and is immune as a court appointee.

May 31, 2023: US District Court Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni rejects Williams' motion to dismiss, stating Cynthia Randolph has sufficiently alleged Williams should have realized her conduct would cause Mikaela distress.

August 2023: Charles Haynes is expected to be released from prison and plans to file for full custody of his youngest daughter.

Cast of Characters:

Mikaela Haynes: A 14-year-old high honor student who tragically died by suicide after being placed in the shared custody of her father, who had a history of sexual abuse. She was passionate about animals, learned sign language to help her elderly deaf neighbors, and dreamt of becoming a pediatric surgeon specializing in facial deformities.

Cynthia Randolph: Mikaela Haynes' mother. She filed for divorce from Charles Haynes and a wrongful death lawsuit against Jennifer Williams after Mikaela's death. She was accused of parental alienation for objecting to Charles Haynes gaining custody of Mikaela.

Charles Haynes: Mikaela Haynes' father. He admitted to and was convicted of sexually abusing his eldest daughter. Despite this, he was granted shared custody of Mikaela and was later denied probation for his conviction after her suicide. He plans to file for full custody of his youngest daughter upon release from prison.

Jennifer Williams: The court-appointed guardian ad litem assigned to represent Mikaela Haynes during the custody dispute. Despite Charles Haynes' sexual abuse conviction, Williams recommended he be awarded shared custody of Mikaela. She currently works as an Extension Engagement Specialist at the University of Missouri and is facing a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Cynthia Randolph.

Judge John Shock: The Missouri Circuit Court judge who presided over the custody case and followed Williams' recommendation to grant shared custody of Mikaela Haynes to Charles Haynes.

Evita Tolu: The attorney representing Cynthia Randolph in the wrongful death lawsuit against Jennifer Williams. She is an advocate for family court reform.

Connie Valentine: The Administrative Director of the California Protective Parents Association and a national figure in family court reform efforts.

William Halaz: Charles Haynes' current attorney. He is part of Cordell & Cordell, a well-known father's rights law group.

Keri Smith: A previous attorney for Charles Haynes who advocated for him to have custody of his youngest daughter.

Judge Abbie Crites-Leoni: The US District Court Judge who rejected Jennifer Williams' motion to dismiss the wrongful death lawsuit filed by Cynthia Randolph.