

# Judge says defendant made 'stupid mistake'

By **STUE BUCK**  
Staff Writer

Gloria Ann Hanna is basically a good mother who made "a stupid mistake."

That's how Oakland County Probate Judge Sandra Silver defended her decision to return the 6-year-old twins who were locked in separate bedrooms behind closed doors on Feb. 5 by Hanna.

"I told her that she had made a stupid mistake," Silver said dur-

ing an interview Friday. "Anyone who had any contact with her recommended that they (the children) be returned."

These included favorable reports from the Department of Social Services and full psychological examinations of both Hanna and her children, Silver said.

"The children were being punished by keeping them from home," Silver said. "We see dysfunctional families all the time,

the most God-awful things. This doesn't even come close."

Hanna and her children have a deep bond, Silver said.

The judge added that she is always careful in reaching a decision like this. Seven Detroit children — left home alone — died recently, and the incident is on the minds of many.

"This (the Hanna case) isn't like that. It doesn't even come close," she said.

Wisam Hanna, Gloria's ex-husband who is Lebanese, said that Gloria Hanna has left the children home alone before.

"I'm sure she has," said Silver, who has ordered continued psychological testing until the court reviews the case again on Aug. 26.

"We're disappointed that we were unable to prove that she had left the children home on previous occasions," Farmington Hills po-

lice Chief William Dwyer said. "Our prime concern is the safety of those children. I'm concerned that this might occur again."

Dwyer declined to name items besides cereal bowls and potty chairs that were in the bedrooms that would indicate Hanna had left the children before.

Wisam Hanna said that he hasn't seen the children in 18 months.

Silver said that one of the visitation stipulations Wayne County Judge Robert Colombo Jr. imposed on Wisam Hanna was that he turn over the children's passports.

Gloria Hanna fears that both her children might be kidnapped, Silver said, and that's why she has been reluctant to take them with her.

The kidnapping concern may

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*Sandra Silver  
Probate judge*

extend more to the boy because the Arab culture believes that the son is the property of the father, Silver said.

The court has seen cases where a Middle Eastern man has kidnapped his children. "You can't get them back," Silver said.

Gloria Hanna's attorney, Debra Kocpzyński, said the ordeal had been very upsetting to the twins, especially Najiba, the daughter, who has broken out in a rash.

## Mom from page 1A

the afternoon, police said. She returned home about 4 p.m. that day to find police waiting for her.

The twins were taken to Oakland Children's Village in Farmington Hills on the next day determined that they should stay with an aunt.

Hanna's ex-husband, Wisam Hanna, wasn't present in district court Thursday but was in the Oakland County Courthouse of Probate Judge Sandra G. Silver Wednesday when she returned the twins to Gloria Hanna.

"She (Gloria Hanna) has her children back," said Gloria Hanna's new attorney, Debra Kocpzyński, as she left the district court. "She shouldn't have had them taken away from her in the first place."

The attorney added that she took this case because she considered it a women's issue.

"To me it is more a matter of standing up for a woman who has been beaten up by the system," Kocpzyński said.

**Father denies charge**

Gloria Hanna told police Sgt. Chuck Nebus that she locked her children in their rooms to keep them from her ex-husband, a cook at Anita's Kitchen in Troy.

"I have no intention whatsoever of taking them away," their father said.

Wisam Hanna said emphatically that he doesn't object to his

ex-wife having custody. He complained, however, that Gloria Hanna doesn't bring them for the supervised visitation that he is allowed.

According to Kocpzyński, Wisam Hanna was ordered to turn over the children's passports in order to have visitation, but he refused. His short visitation, the attorney said, requires that he be in a room with no windows, no exit and a guard at the door.

"He would leave little notes (at the Oak Forest house) and appear at different times during the night," the attorney said.

However, Wisam Hanna said that he hasn't seen the children for 18 months.

"I have no objections to her having the kids," Wisam Hanna said. "I always believe that, and it is the ethnic way that children belong with their mother — unless she is an unfit mother."

"And I don't want them at her sister's house. They belong to us. Throughout the hearings, I was thinking that we might lose the kids."

Wisam Hanna added that his former wife "has left the children before." "We may fight over them for years," he said.

Wisam Hanna said he resents his portrayal in the media as a would-be kidnapper. He says the media have latched onto other situations, including a real-life mo-

le, "Not Without My Daughter," about a Middle Eastern man who kidnaps his daughter and takes her to his native country.

"I have a new wife coming here (from Lebanon) next month," Hanna said. "My people want to come to America, not leave it."

Gloria Hanna is the host and producer of a public access cable TV program, "Salon Glamor with Gloria," about beauty and grooming seen on Metrovision in Oakland County at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesdays.


In an earlier interview, Farm-

ington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said Gloria Hanna, a former Detroit undercover cop, won a sexual harassment lawsuit against the Detroit Police.

Neighbors have described her as a good mother.

The twins were discovered home alone when a man delivering a package of cosmetology items heard them crying and pounding on the upstairs windows. Police and fire department personnel climbed a ladder and forced their way through the window.

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