

**The Trial of Gabriel Fernandez
Reaction Paper**

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It is very alarming to read the current statistics on child abuse in the United States. It is sad to note that among the reported cases, one in every even child is abused. It is further disturbing to realize that there are many other cases of abuse that exist but are unreported. Many of the cases of abuse in the year 2020, 1750 to be exact, were accompanied by a fatal reality.

Watching the television documentary of an eight-year-old was heart-wrenching. It is dismal to note that this paper reports the account of his life in the past tense, as he died as a result of child abuse. Living with his biological mother and stepfather for the period of eight months was not characterized by love and happiness as would have been typical for the life of an eight-year-old. His parents, who were slated to love and protect him, tortured and murdered him.

His mother's personal by one who is not acquainted with her would be typified as loving, but the description of the reaction to her child is noted as criminalistic and inhumane. She reported to be one who is a byproduct of a broken system and this was portrayed in the treated her son. She was noted as one with an intellectual disability. Having fought the battle of drug addiction and abuse herself. Her life is a prime example that one will reflect the environment to which one was exposed. Her parenting was one which reflected pain because her life and history reflected the same.

Being typified in the documentary as one who controls her environment and the people in it, gave evidence the actions of Gabriel's stepfather's actions. Gabriel's stepdad maltreated him as a way to support and show love to his female partner. This was a people-pleasing personality that resulted in the demise of an honest child. His treatment of Gabriel also reflected a lack of empathy and failure to accept Gabriel's personality traits which he expressed to be emasculate.

Gabriel was failed by a myriad of individuals and systems. The first was his parents who failed to protect him. His mother's act of not caring for him at birth, though she could, was the

first evidence of injustice against Gabriel. Gabriel was also failed by the social system. Social workers are mandated to report and protect civilization, especially those voiceless as Gabriel failed to remove him from a harmful system. Failure was also seen in the highest levels of bureaucracy as Gabriel's issues and concerns were seen as secondary to the protection of administrative protection. The school and systems were also flawed, matters were not taken to the next level even though reports were made.

If the writer of this paper were a therapist, he would ensure to report the matter of child abuse. The counselor would also utilize the family systems theory. Group therapy with all members of the in-counseling session would help to uncover hidden situations to bring needed help to Gabriel. Cognitive family-to-group therapy would also be helpful in aiding Gabriel's mother to reframe her psychological mindset to lead her family with love and care. These therapeutic actions would protect Gabriel, in addition to removing him from the abusive home until family psychological healing is realized.

His parents should be considered mentally ill, but also evil. The actions they portrayed indeed the mirroring of their marred social exposure. It cannot be overstated however that such behavior as taking the life of their son was one which was blatantly evil and demanded the punishment they received from the civil system.

While watching the documentary, feelings of concern and care for children surfaced. The writer of the paper thought much of his own children and the love and protection they deserve. Much thought for social justice and a desire to use the platform of counseling to help voiceless children was birth.

Children need to be protected. Rising from the story of Gabriel Fernandez was sadness, but hope that such an occurrence will not reoccur due to an awakened passion to protect innocent children.