

## ***Celebrating success for our clients!***

EVANS KINGSBURY LLP successfully obtained protections for a single mother of two young children. The United States Constitution guarantees parents the right to raise their children without interference by the courts, except where State law properly allows judicial intervention such as in child abuse cases.

In this case, the mother's husband died by suicide. The mother had serious concerns about allowing her children to visit unsupervised with the husband's parents. She continued inviting the grandparents to family events and encouraged them to enjoy a relationship with their grandchildren.

The grandparents sought a court-mandated visitation schedule. A visiting judge in Sonoma County Superior Court told the mother she would "get over" her concerns and ordered temporary supervised visitation between the grandparents and grandchildren without the mother present.

EVANS KINGSBURY LLP immediately filed a petition for review in the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal responded with extraordinary swiftness. Within 22 hours of filing the petition, the Court of Appeal stayed the Superior Court's decision and ordered the parties to brief the issues.

A final hearing was held in the Superior Court and Hon. Paul J. Lozada appropriately modified the original order to allow visitations to occur at the discretion of the mother.