

Jenner & Block Clears Record of Mother Wrongly Flagged by DCFS

News

April 10, 2026

When a domestic violence survivor found herself facing a wrongful indication of neglect from Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) — on top of the trauma she had already endured — Jenner & Block Partner [Stephanie Sebor](#) stepped in to set the record straight.

In November 2023, Stephanie’s client was assaulted in her home by her romantic partner, the father of her then-six-month-old daughter. This followed a previous incident that same day, which resulted in the partner being escorted home by police, while Jenner’s client returned home with her children. That night, despite having locked the doors, her partner entered her home uninvited and assaulted her.

A hotline report made to DCFS of these events led to the involvement of an investigator, who attested to the precautionary measures the victim had taken prior to the assault and the fact she had called the police. Despite this and the fact that there had been no subsequent reports of domestic violence, the investigator and her supervisor alleged the victim created an “Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare” for her children and placed her on the DCFS State Central Register of individuals who have been indicated for child abuse and neglect.

After Stephanie intervened, an Administrative Law Judge reviewed the testimony and facts and concluded her client had taken appropriate precautionary measures to protect her children from domestic violence. Because there was no evidence she had been neglectful or created a dangerous environment for her children, the indication was reversed and her request for expungement of the record of the allegation was granted.

Related Attorneys



Stephanie B. Sebor

Partner

ssebor@jenner.com

+1 312 923 4768

Related Locations

Chicago

© 2026 Jenner & Block LLP. Attorney Advertising. Jenner & Block LLP is an Illinois Limited Liability Partnership including professional corporations. This publication, presentation, or event is not intended to provide legal advice but to provide information on legal matters and/or firm news of interest to our clients and colleagues. Readers or attendees should seek specific legal advice before taking any action with respect to matters mentioned in this publication or at this event. The attorney responsible for this communication is Brent E. Kidwell, Jenner & Block LLP, 353 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654-3456. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Jenner & Block London LLP, an affiliate of Jenner & Block LLP, is a limited liability partnership established under the laws of the State of Delaware, USA and is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority with SRA number 615729. Information regarding the data we collect and the rights you have over your data can be found in our Privacy Notice. For further inquiries, please contact dataprotection@jenner.com.

Stay Informed

