

HEARING DAY GUIDE — RICHARD DORSEY

July 31, 2026 | 1:30 PM | Division 14 | 1777 6th St, Boulder

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- Bring two printed sets of all exhibits (A–K, skip D if not received): one for you, one to hand to the clerk if asked
 - Bring printed copies of your witness list, pre-trial statement, and opening statement
 - Arrive by 1:00 PM — find Division 14, check in with the clerk
 - Turn phone to silent
 - Address the judge as "Your Honor" every single time
 - Never address Lauren directly — everything goes to the judge
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WHEN THE JUDGE OPENS

The judge will call the case and confirm who is present. Say:

"Richard Dorsey, Your Honor, appearing pro se on behalf of the children."

WHILE LAUREN PRESENTS — WHAT TO DO

- **Listen. Take notes. Do not react.**
 - Do not shake your head, sigh, or make faces
 - Write down everything she says that is wrong or misleading — you will address it
 - Do not interrupt. Ever.
 - If she says something that makes you angry, write it down and breathe
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YOUR TURN — STEP BY STEP

1. Opening Statement

Deliver your opening statement. Speak slowly. Look at the judge.

"Your Honor, my name is Richard Dorsey. I am Rae's father and I appear pro se..."

(Full text in your Opening Statement document)

2. Presenting Exhibits

When you reference a document, say:

"Your Honor, I'd like to submit Exhibit [letter] for the Court's consideration."

Hand it to the clerk. Then briefly explain what it shows — one or two sentences max.

Exhibit order if the judge allows: - **Exhibit A** — Gisela confirms same Child Find services at both schools - **Exhibit B** — UPK matched Rae to Nederland - **Exhibit C** — BVSD recommends full evaluation; stability is critical right now - **Exhibit K** — Ward is 15 min from school; Boulder is 45 min - *Hold H, I, J in reserve — use only if Lauren raises those issues*

3. Your Testimony

Speak from your experience. Keep it about Rae.

Key points to hit: - Rae and Lucia have lived in Ward with you since the separation - Lucia will be at Nederland for 1st grade — same building, same drop-off - You enrolled Rae at Nederland so the sisters would be together for Rae's first year of school - BVSD evaluated Rae on June 4 and recommended a full evaluation — you want her settled in one place while that happens - You drive that road. The kids have always lived in the mountains. The commute is manageable.

LAUREN'S LIKELY ARGUMENTS — AND HOW TO RESPOND

"Mapleton is Level 4. Nederland is Level 1."

"Your Honor, I addressed this in my pre-trial statement. I contacted BVSD's own Child Find coordinator, Gisela Sanchez, and asked specifically whether both schools provide the same Child Find services for Rae. She confirmed in writing that they do. That's Exhibit A. The rating difference does not change what Rae will actually receive."

"The drive up Boulder Canyon is dangerous."

"Your Honor, I drive that road. The children have lived in Ward their entire lives. Families in this community make that commute regularly. It is not an obstacle to Rae attending the school in her own community."

"Rich made Ward the primary BVSD household without my agreement."

"Your Honor, Exhibit J is an email chain from May 15 — before either parent enrolled Rae anywhere. BVSD's coordinator, Gisela Sanchez, asked both of us which address to use. Ms. Dorsey responded in writing: 'If you want to put the address in Ward that works.' BVSD then confirmed Ward had to be used because Ms. Dorsey's address at the time was in Longmont — St. Vrain Valley School District, a different district entirely. Ward was not my unilateral choice. It was required by BVSD and agreed to by Ms. Dorsey."

"I registered Rae at Mapleton first."

"Your Honor, Exhibit H is a June 8 email from BVSD's enrollment coordinator, Liliana Luces. It confirms that when I attempted to complete Rae's Netherlands enrollment, I received a 'duplicate student' error. BVSD confirmed in writing that the duplicate was caused by Ms. Dorsey having already registered Rae in SchoolMint. BVSD corrected the issue and completed Rae's placement at Nederland."

"Rae has special needs and Mapleton is better equipped."

"Your Honor, BVSD's own coordinator confirmed both schools provide the same Child Find services — that's Exhibit A. The evaluation BVSD recommended hasn't been completed yet. Moving Rae to a new school before her evaluation is done adds disruption at exactly the moment she needs stability."

"Rich is being uncooperative / acting in bad faith."

"Your Honor, I enrolled Rae at the school in her community, in the district where she lives, where her sister will be. I've been transparent with the Court about every step of the enrollment process. The documents speak for themselves."

"The siblings don't need to be at the same school — Rae will be fine."

"Your Honor, the Colorado statute expressly includes the sibling relationship as a best-interests factor. Rae is four years old. This is her first year of school. Having her sister down the hall is the most concrete form of stability I can give her right now. That's available at Nederland. It's not available at Mapleton."

IF THE JUDGE ASKS YOU QUESTIONS

Answer directly. Do not over-explain. If you don't know something, say:

"I don't know, Your Honor, but I can find out."

Never guess. Never speculate about Lauren's motives.

CLOSING — IF GIVEN THE CHANCE

"Your Honor, Rae has lived in Ward her whole life. Her sister is at Nederland. BVSD placed her at Nederland. The evaluation is pending

and she needs stability. I'm asking the Court to let her start school in the community she's always known, with her sister. Thank you."

WHAT NOT TO DO

- Do not mention Hawaii, the power being shut off, or Lauren's past behavior — this hearing is only about school
 - Do not call her Lauren or Lola in court — say "Ms. Dorsey"
 - Do not argue with anything the judge says
 - Do not bring up the LIHTC/affordable housing issue with Lauren's Boulder address
 - Do not lose your temper — the calmer parent always looks better
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IF THINGS GO SIDEWAYS

If the judge rules against you on something mid-hearing, say:

"I understand, Your Honor."

Then keep going. Don't argue with a ruling.

If Lauren says something completely false and you need to correct it, wait.
When it's your turn:

"Your Honor, I'd like to address what Ms. Dorsey just said about [topic]..."
