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Folder 18 -- Bereck, Estelle -- 1938

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One letter is handwritten.

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July 16, 1938

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky
National Council of Jewish Women
El. Paso Texas

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky,

I am in receipt of your telegram and wish to thank you for your extreme kindness in troubling yourself to inform me of my unfortunate daughter's whereabouts.

You are correct in your diagnosis of her case. She has been confined in state hospitals several times and each time when she had improved slightly I took her home.

Our troubles began when Estelle was seven years old. She became afflicted with the sleeping sickness and spinal meningitis. Until then she had been a normal child but upon her recovery from these ailments she was left feeble minded.

She was an inmate of the Pilgrim State Hospital until six months ago when she escaped from the institution and came home. I knew she ought to be confined but you know how a mother's heart is, Mrs. Zlabovsky. She refused to go back so I obtained her release from the hospital. I watched her carefully and she behaved herself until 3 weeks ago when she suddenly disappeared from home.

Her illness has exhausted every bit of money we had. Now I manage to eke out a bare existence for our little family by peddling notions from a pushcart in a marketplace. Believe me, Mrs. Zlabovsky, if it were at all possible for me to pay for my daughter's transportation I would be only too happy to do so in order that I might not have to go through the humiliation of exposing my impoverished circumstances. Unfortunately I cannot choose. Therefore I beg of you Mrs. Zlabovsky - as one Jewish mother to another - please do what you can to have her committed to the Kings County Hospital for Mental Diseases in Brooklyn, New York. If you should want her case history I believe you may obtain ~~them~~ ^{it} from the Pilgrim State Hospital, Brentwood, Long Island.

Mrs. Zlabovsky I want to thank you again from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and hope that you may be able to arrange for her transportation to New York.

Hopefully & Thankfully Yours

Roy Bereck

Mrs. Roy Bereck

July 18, 1938.

Mrs. Albert Bereck,
89 Moore Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Bereck:-

Answering your letter of the 16th, I want you to know that we are truly in sympathy with your unfortunate daughter, but the El Paso community cannot assume the expense of sending her back to New York. There are no funds available for such a purpose.

To leave her in our County Jail is tragic, and am now appealing to you to secure the funds necessary for her return to New York. Since it will be necessary to send an attendant with her, which will entail an additional expense of a round trip ticket, and about \$5.00 a day expenses, I would suggest that either you or some other relative come to El Paso and take her home.

As much as we would like to help you, we find it impossible to do so financially. If you cannot raise the necessary funds, would suggest that you contact the Charity Organizations in Brooklyn. This being a New York Case, they are liable.

Thanking you for your prompt response, I am

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.

FZ:LG