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**SNA’S DALE JOINS EFFORT TO HELP BAY AREA FAMILY FACING
EVICTION FOLLOWING TRAGEDY**

(*WALNUT CREEK*, Calif.) – Special Needs Alliance (SNA) member Stephen W. Dale of the Dale Law Firm has joined a growing list of special needs community members offering support for a Concord-area family struck by tragedy.

Michael Malboeuf, the father of two children—Melody and Michael Jr., both of whom are in the autism spectrum—passed away unexpectedly at the age of 38, leaving his wife, Yuri Malboeuf, as the primary caregiver of 9-year-old Melody and 7-year-old Michael.

Yuri, who suffers from a chronic disease, is fighting an uphill battle in an effort to avoid eviction while grieving over the loss of her husband. As with many families of children with special needs, the Malboeuf’s have been struggling financially, and their home was placed in foreclosure. The home did not sell at auction, and so the Malboeuf’s have remained—hoping for a miracle. Should the Malboeuf’s be evicted, Melody and Michael could face institutionalization.

Dale has come on as the Malboeuf family counsel to establish a Special Needs Trust for the two young children—which will help to ensure their future financial security.

“The passing of Michael was a terrible tragedy for the Malboeuf family,” Dale remarked.

“This family is facing unimaginable challenges, and I felt that it was my responsibility as

a member of the special needs community here in the Bay Area, and as a member of the advocacy-based SNA, to step in and help.”

Michael Malboeuf, known throughout the local special needs community as a devoted parent and a special needs youth soccer coach, died suddenly in early April following an illness that was thought to be non life-threatening.

Dale, a former psychiatric nurse who specialized in the treatment of patients with behavioral problems, says that the threat of eviction could cause significant harm to the Malboeuf’s two children.

“Most children do not respond to change well, but for children within the autism spectrum, any significant change in living environment is an especially jarring experience,” Dale says. “These two children are comfortable in their home, and they are comfortable in their neighborhood. These key elements of stability are critical to children with autism. To remove them from a familiar environment could cause lifelong behavioral problems that could severely limit their development.”

Dale further notes that families like the Malboeuf’s are seeing firsthand the effects of state and federal budget cuts to programs and resources relied upon by individuals with special needs.

“The Malboeuf’s are experiencing these unfortunate events at a time when the state and the country are making cuts to programs that would be beneficial to these vulnerable families. There is no safety net for families in these especially egregious situations.”

To learn more about the Malboeuf family, visit: <http://melodyandmikey.blogspot.com/>.

To learn how to support the Malboeuf family, visit:

<http://www.achievingindependence.com/Malboeuf.htm>

About the Special Needs Alliance

The Special Needs Alliance (SNA) is a national, not-for-profit organization of attorneys dedicated to the practice of disability and public benefits law. Individuals with disabilities, their families and their advisors rely on the SNA to connect them with nearby attorneys who focus their practices in the disability law arena. SNA membership is based on a combination of relevant legal experience in the disability and special needs planning fields, direct family experience with disability, active participation with national, state and local disability advocacy organizations, and professional reputation. SNA members average 18 years of experience in special needs planning and disability law.

For more information about the Special Needs Alliance, or to locate a member attorney in your area, visit www.specialneedsalliance.com or call 1-877-572-8472.

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