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by Doug Stanglin

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Mar 27, 2012

Ohio woman thanks lawyer for saving her life 36 years ago

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By Douglas Stanglin, USA TODAY

Updated 2h 3m ago



Florida attorney Joel Cohen says the e-mail he recently got from Carolynn Ivey "raised the hair on my neck." The last time she was a part of Cohen's life, Carolynn Ivey weighed less than 2 pounds and desperately needed a lifesaving blood transfusion despite the religious objections of her parents.

Cohen, then a young Pensacola attorney, was tapped by the Escambia County Circuit Court to become temporary guardian to give legal consent for the transfusions for Carolynn and her twin sister, Julia, the Pensacola News Journal reports

Although Cohen never saw the girls or spoke to the parents, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the case, rushing off to Tallahassee for critical appeals court documents and hurrying back that evening so that the doctors could get to work.



About Doug Stanglin

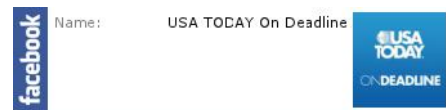
Doug is an unrepentant news junkie who loves breaking news and has been known to watch C-SPAN even on vacation. He has covered a wide range of domestic and international news stories, from prison riots in Oklahoma to the Moscow coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. Doug previously served as foreign editor at USA TODAY. [More about Doug](#)



About Michael Winter

Michael Winter has been a daily contributor to On Deadline since its debut in January 2006. His journalism career began in the prehistoric Ink Era, and he was an early adapter at the dawn of the Digital Age. His varied experience includes editing at the San Jose Mercury News and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

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"Once I saw the gravity of the situation, I jumped in with both feet," Cohen says.

Carolynn Ivey Evans, now a 36-year-old shipping clerk in Ohio, survived, but her weaker sister did not.

Ivey Evans, who has four children, three stepchildren and three step-grandchildren, tells the *News Journal* that she found out about her case over the Internet and wanted to thank Cohen "for saving my life."



"If it was not for Mr. Cohen fighting for me, I would not be here today! It brought me to tears that he would try so hard," she tells the newspaper.

Ivey Evans says her mother left the Jehovah's Witnesses faith a year after she was born, and her father later went to prison, where he died in 1995.

"My relationship with my mother is great," she says, "Though this is something that we have not really discussed. I don't want to upset her."

Ivey Evans tells the *News Journal* she donated her children's cord blood at birth and hopes that a child's life might have been saved.

"If one of my children were in need, I would not think twice about getting the help they need to survive and get the fighting chance I have been given," she says.



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Danny Haszard · Top Commenter · [Full](#) [www.dannyhaszard.com](#) at Jehovah Witness cult educator
Jehovah's Witnesses blood transfusion confusion

Jehovahs Witnesses take blood products now in 2012.
They take all fractions of blood.This includes hemoglobin, albumin, clotting factors, cryosupernatant and cryopoor too, and many, many, others.
If one adds up all the blood fractions the JW's takes, it equals a whole unit of blood. Any, many of these fractions are made from thousands upon thousands of units of donated blood.
Jehovah's Witnesses can take Bovine *cows blood* as long as it is euphemistically called synthetic Hemopure.
Jehovah's Witnesses now accept every fraction of blood except the membrane of the red blood cell.
JW's now accept blood transfusions.
The fact that the JW blood issue is so unclear is downright dangerous in the emergency room.
--

Danny Haszard <http://www.ajwrb.org/>
JW blood reform site

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Gus Bricker · Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
A conservative estimate of the deaths of Jehovahs Witnesses since the blood ban went into effect 1945 is 50,000 dead,men,women,CHILDREN.May be as high as 150,000.

Lower figure is 50 times more than died at Jones Town kool-aid mass murder.

The Jehovah Witnesses blood transfusion ban is DEADLY! It is not from the God orthe Bible it is man-made.

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Joe Willis · Top Commenter · Shamokin, Pennsylvania
Mr.Cohen sir, hats off to you for doing the good deed. Mrs.Evans, best of everything to you. I love getting up in the morning and reading a feel good story.Made my day.

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Bill Hart · Top Commenter
I must agree Joe. Someone some where went out of their way to be helpful. We do have a lot of good people out there. The kind of news we like to see.

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Brian Armstrong · Toronto, Ontario
Mr. Cohen may you and your family be blessed for your good deeds. Mrs. Evans, you are the blessing, have a wonderful life.

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Hanno Phoenicia · Top Commenter
The law has moved backward in protecting children. In Arizona, many parents refuse to vaccinate their children based on wacky and paranoid theories about it and it's not only legal now, but those kids can go to school to infect others. The pre-medical dark ages are alive and well as is lawful child neglect.

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Chris McKimie · Top Commenter
What do you know a Lawyer with a heart !!! I thought they had to have it removed when they passed the Bar !!! Will wonders ever cease !!!

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Shami Khan
Good man. God bless him.:)

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