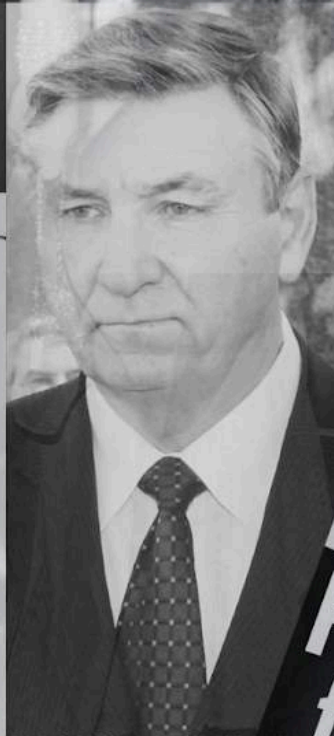


Britney Spears
...baby one more time



FREE BRITNEY

specialized: winmun vii





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A Letter from the Chair

Dear delegates,

Hello! My name is Georgia Keeler and I will be the chair of Specialized: Free Britney for WINMUN VII! I am a senior at Winchester High School and an officer of WHS Model UN. When I am not at MUN, you can find me struggling to finish all my homework, running on our track team, scrolling on Pinterest, and of course, listening to music constantly. This will be my third WINMUN, in past years I have been a delegate in Specialized: South Africa, 1976 and a vice chair of Specialized: US Senate AIDS. If you can't tell, I love specialized committees. But what makes a specialized committee different from a crisis or a GA?

In this committee, delegates will collaborate, address crisis updates, and write directives. A specialized committee is an excellent mix between the structure of a GA and an ever-changing crisis. For Free Britney, we will explore social media, the music industry, and mental health all in one. This is an exciting topic from only a couple years prior, but it is essential to remember, as with any MUN committee, this is real life. Britney Spears and her family deserve respect throughout our debate.

In Specialized 2024, we will tackle #FreeBritney and the case of Britney Spears's conservatorship. After a series of outbursts and experiences with drug and mental health problems, the court placed Britney Spears under a conservatorship led by her father Jamie in 2008. Claiming abuse in a legal battle and raising a growing #FreeBritney movement, Britney asked the court to officially end her conservatorship in 2021. That is where we pick up in committee!

As delegates you will address Britney and her father's history with mental health, adjust to crisis updates, and work together to decide the ultimate fate of the pop icon. As you research, I definitely recommend focusing not only on the big picture, but specific details of the case. Although our committee is taking place in 2021, this has been an extended issue with lots of intricacies. Make sure to look at reputable sources, focused on the fact instead of glamorizing the issue at hand. How will you work with other delegates across opinions and histories to achieve a solution?

Georgia Keeler (she/her) - Chair
WINMUN VII Specialized: Free Britney Committee
thepeach.keeler@gmail.com



A Letter from the Vice Chair

Dear delegates,

Hello! My name is Regina Pérez and I will be one of your vice chairs of Specialized: Free Britney for WinMUN VII! I am a junior at Winchester High School and have been staffing WinMUN ever since I was a freshman. When I am not doing Model UN, I love to listen to artists like Bad Bunny, Drake, and SZA; play tennis; and hang out with friends and family. I have previously been a logistics head coordinator at WinMUN, so you may recognize me from when I was collecting money for our charities (please donate!), checking you into the conference, or doing prank calls! This year, I am so excited to branch off and staff this committee, because why wouldn't I want to have a front row seat to a Britney Spears debate??

If this is your first specialized committee, try not to worry. I, along with the rest of your dais, will make sure to promote a positive learning environment and productive debate, because the most important things that you could gain from this conference are some knowledge, experience, and a good time, more so than a successful debate or directive. Generally speaking, a specialized committee is similar to a crisis in the sense that we often write directives and stray away from debating global issues, but also is similar to a GA in regards to its parliamentary procedure.

In this committee, you and your fellow delegates will tackle the issues of Britney Spears's infamous conservatorship, picking up in the summer of 2021 when Britney went to court, pleading for an end to her conservatorship. No matter which character you represent, I recommend that you do your research on the topic as a whole, as well as on your character's stance on it. Additionally, I hope you have fun and feel productive during this debate!! I know it may be easier said than done, but this is such an amazing opportunity for you to speak up and use your voice, so please try to. Instigating and playing devil's advocate can be fun, try it out!

See you there!

Regina Pérez (she/her) - Vice Chair

WinMUN VII Specialized: Free Britney Committee

reginamp100@gmail.com



A Letter from the Vice Chair

Hi Delegates,

My name is Eddie Stewart and I am delighted to staff the Free Britney Specialized Committee as a vice-chair. I am excited to begin debate on the Britney Spears conservatorship case and am ready for a strong discussion. I have been a part of the Model UN Club for the past two years at Winchester High School and I enjoy it more every meeting. This is my first time staffing WinMUN and I hope that I can help many of you build interest in Model UN. I believe it is extremely important for life skills like communication, collaboration, and problem-solving.

I am a junior in Winchester High School and participate in Debate and Connect and Commit Club as well as MUN. I play lacrosse in the spring and am on the alpine ski team in the winter. Outside of school and other activities, I like hanging out with my friends, driving around, and playing Xbox.

This committee will be an important debate over the conservatorship of Britney Spears and can be broadened to the topic of autonomy in general. It is important for each delegate to try and work with each other in order to create a good future for Britney. Without teamwork, it will be extremely difficult to navigate issues and crises that may occur. This is an unusual topic for MUN normally but acts as a good practice point and should be taken seriously to continue quality work in MUN.

I am ecstatic to see the direction this committee takes in our pursuit to aid Britney Spears.

Eddie Stewart (he/him) - Vice Chair

WinMUN VII Specialized: Free Britney Committee

eddiestew7@gmail.com



Committee Overview

Procedures & Advisories

For Specialized VII, we are taking a non-traditional topic and morphing it into a specialized format. Each delegate is representing a living person in 2021, all of which were directly related to the Free Britney case through personal relationships or legal roles. In our committee, we will stray from reality only in our structure. This specialized committee will function like a Board Committee, meaning that each member has differing roles but equal power in deciding our ultimate solutions. We will start our committee in the summer of 2021. Delegates will write directives instead of resolutions, respond to crisis updates, and follow parliamentary procedures.

<https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-crisis-directive/>

<https://www.allamericanmun.com/mun-101-specialized-committees/>

Position Papers

Delegates must submit a position paper, suggested to be around two pages long, to be eligible for awards. The dais will grade position papers for feedback and consideration for the Best Position Paper award. No other awards will consider your position paper. For feedback before WINMUN, position papers must be submitted by 11:59 on Saturday 4/13. Position papers are due AT THE LATEST by 11:59 PM on Saturday 4/27. Email your paper to winchester.hmun@gmail.com.

Awards

Throughout the committee, delegates will be evaluated by the dais on the quality of speeches and writing, public speaking, respectful adherence to character policy, position papers, and productive participation. We will have multiple awards for this committee, but—awards are not the only indicator of success in the committee. Your dais will also provide personal feedback during and after the committee for any delegate interested.



Disclaimer & Committee Policies

Content Disclaimer

This committee tackles many sensitive topics. If any delegate feels uncomfortable discussing the topics or has any concerns about the topic's discussion, please do not hesitate to let a chair know. We will do our best to accommodate you, and it will have no impact on awards.

Please email winchester.bmun@gmail.com with any questions you may have about this.

Technology Policy

WinMUN is a conference that embraces technology in specific committees, however with the Specialized: Free Britney it is expected that all directives will be written on paper and therefore this committee will be technology free. It is highly recommended that delegates also bring printed copies of their research and speeches during debate time, if applicable. The use of smartphones or similar devices for any purpose during committee sessions, including MUN-related activities, is strictly prohibited unless discussed with the chair. While delegates are allowed to bring notes to assist with speeches, heavily relying on screens for reading will be deemed unprofessional and result in slight point deductions for award contentions.

Committee Expectations

All WinMUN delegates are expected to remain respectful throughout the duration of committee session. If at any point a delegate feels uncomfortable or has a concern they are strongly encouraged to send a note to the dais and to speak with the dais immediately after the committee session. The dais will not tolerate any behavior or speech that is racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, or otherwise targeted or discriminatory.



Introduction

Who is Britney Spears?

Britney Spears was born in McComb, MS on December 2, 1981 to parents James “Jamie” Spears and Lynne Spears. Soon later, at the age of 3, Britney and her family moved their lives to Kentwood, Louisiana, where she spent most of her childhood. As a child, Britney loved to sing and dance, and even booked some professional gigs as a result. Her



looks, talent, and charm, along with the education she received at the Professional Performing Arts School in New York, inevitably attracted producers, and Britney became a widely known pop star by the time she was a teenager in the 1990s.

At 15 years old, Britney released her first single, “...Baby One More Time,” which *really* started it all. Not only was it widely loved (as it still is today), it became a popular controversy in the celebrity circle, as its video and lyrics were quite provocative, especially for Britney and the time period. However, this only brought more attention to the song, and when the “...*Baby One More Time*” album was released in 1999, it took the nation by storm and over 10 million copies were distributed across the United States. Just a year later, Britney released the album *Oops!...I Did It Again*, which also received immense attention, both in positive and negative lights. Regardless, Britney’s presentation was profitable and iconic, and her popularity was only rising. She proceeded to work on brand deals, publicity, and more music, such as songs “Toxic” and “Womanizer” and albums *Britney* and *In the Zone*.

Eventually, Britney’s popularity stagnated, as the 2010s no longer called for her 2000s aesthetic. However, she continued to release music, and was seen on television on *The X Factor* and *Britney: Piece of Me*. The summer of 2019 caught us by surprise though, when Britney announced that she would be taking an “indefinite work hiatus.” What was happening behind the scenes?



The Conservatorship

A conservatorship is defined as “ a legal status in which a court appoints a person to manage the financial and personal affairs of a minor or incapacitated person. A conservator may also serve as a guardian who is responsible for establishing and monitoring the physical care of the individual and managing their living arrangements.” (Investopedia).

In Britney’s case, her father—Jamie Spears—has control over Britney’s finances, career decisions, and major personal decisions. The conservatorship of Britney Spears was primarily initiated due to concerns over her mental health and well-being following a series of highly publicized personal struggles and erratic behavior in the mid-2000s.



Britney faced intense media scrutiny, including a divorce, custody battles, and episodes of concerning behavior, culminating in a highly publicized incident where she shaved her head at a Los Angeles salon.

These events led her father, Jamie Spears, to petition for probate conservatorship over Britney’s estate and person in 2008, with the court ultimately granting him control amid fears for her safety and ability to manage her affairs. The conservatorship, initially declared temporary and later made permanent, aimed to protect Britney and her assets, but it became a subject of controversy and legal battles as Britney and her supporters argued for greater autonomy and an end to the arrangement. This



means that Britney legally had no control over her own money, her ability to visit her children, or even make decisions related to her health till the conservatorship was revoked.

However, it is important to note that conservatorship was originally made in Britney’s best wishes, hoping to protect her future as her mental health stabilized. Andre Wallet, Jamie’s co-conservator in 2019 stated that the conservatorship was in a way a “hybrid business model.”



Rise of Free Britney

Pop icon Britney Spears, beloved for her hits like “Toxic” and “Oops...I Did It Again,” has been under a legal conservatorship since she was twenty-seven. In 2008, Britney was hospitalized for multiple psychiatric assessments after run-ins with the police and public mental breakdowns. In response, a legal conservatorship was created, placing Britney’s father—Jamie Spears—in legal control of her estate, financial affairs, and personal decisions.

While under conservatorship, Britney went on tour three times and released her “Circus,” “Femme Fatale,” “Britney Jean,” and “Glory” albums. She also performed in a four year-long residency in Las Vegas from 2013 to 2017. However, in 2019, Britney announced that she would be taking a break from performing and releasing music because of her father’s declining health. Jamie Spears temporarily stepped down from her conservatorship. In April of 2019, the media discovered Britney was checked into a mental health facility cited for distress over her father’s health.



Weeks later, an anonymous paralegal claiming to have worked for Britney’s conservatorship contacted *Britney Gram*, a Spears fan podcast, with information. The contact claimed that Jamie had forced Britney to blame her stay in the mental health facility and the end of her residency. In reality, Jamie sent Britney to the institution months prior, without her consent. This was one of the more



public examples of Jamie’s control over Britney’s life. Immediately, fans (and Britney’s close friend, Paris Hilton) started posting with the now famous #FreeBritney hashtag on Instagram and Twitter. Fans

even protested outside of the West Hollywood City Hall in the first rally of the movement. Although it had a niche following, the #FreeBritney movement had started. At the time in 2019, Britney claimed that “all was well,” but change was coming.



When her father regained his role, Britney spoke out for the first time. Spears' lawyers revealed that she was "afraid of her father" and no longer wanted Jamie to be involved in her career. The following year in 2020, *The New York Times* released the "Framing Britney Spears" documentary, which follows Britney's career, the media's treatment of her, and her conservatorship. This documentary led thousands to take interest in Britney's case in early 2021 and skyrocketed the popularity of #FreeBritney.

Analyzing Britney Spears's Statement

On Wednesday June 23, 2021, Britney addressed the court publicly for the first time since 2007, giving a ruthless twenty-four minute statement on her abuse. The singer had tried to end the conservatorship legally for years, beginning with her lawyer's statements in 2019. Her statement was her



first public denouncement of the conservatorship and account of her father's abuse of power. Britney Spears' testimony in court regarding her conservatorship reveals a distressing narrative of control and manipulation.

She describes being coerced into decisions about her career, medication, and personal life, highlighting instances where she was threatened or forced to comply. This lack of autonomy has taken a toll on her mental health, as she expresses feelings of anger, sadness, and frustration. Britney also feels isolated and alone, indicating a lack of support or understanding from those around her.

"My management said if I don't do this tour, I will have to find an attorney, and by contract my own management could sue me if I didn't follow through [...] And with the conservatorship, I couldn't even get my own attorney. So out of fear, I went ahead and I did the tour."

"Anything that happened to me had to be approved by my dad. And my dad acted like he didn't know [...] He was the one who approved all of it. My whole family did nothing"



Within her testimony, Britney claimed that she was forced to perform, her father abused her wealth, she was drugged, and was not allowed to remarry or have another child. Despite these challenges, Britney is adamant about her desire for freedom. She expresses a clear wish to end the conservatorship without further evaluation, citing her ability to work and provide for herself. She questions the need for continued control over her finances and personal decisions, emphasizing her right to live a normal life.

Britney's testimony also sheds light on her strained relationship with her family, particularly her father. She feels betrayed by those who were supposed to protect her interests and expresses distrust toward those involved in the conservatorship. Despite these difficulties, Britney remains hopeful about her future, expressing a desire to get married and have more children. She feels restricted by the conservatorship and believes it is preventing her from achieving her personal goals.

Britney's testimony paints a poignant picture of a woman fighting against a system that she feels has deprived her of her basic rights and freedoms. It highlights the complexities and challenges of conservatorship and underscores the importance of ensuring individuals' autonomy and agency over their own lives. This statement marks Britney publicly and officially requesting for her conservatorship to be ended.

Cost of Freedom

The #FreeBritney movement not only raised awareness for Britney Spears' experience with familiar abuse, but brought to light “for-profit conservatorship,” where conservators profit off of the legal disability of their wards. In 2021, 1.3 million Americans were under conservatorship. How many of those people are in the same situation as Britney? How many of them are genuinely helped by this arrangement?

As we discuss Britney's case, it is important to remember that the media has dominated a lot of her life. Not only does this committee cover #FreeBritney, but the sexualization and exploitation of child stars and the impact that the industry has on them.



Impending Implications

Legal Analysis

A case as significant as Britney Spears's came with an abundance of public legal analysis, which led to people forming their own claims and opinions.

As we generally know it, the causes of Britney's conservatorship were some sporadic behaviors that she had been displaying, such as shaving her head, getting physical with paparazzi, and refusing to hand her child to their father. As a result, Britney entered financial and personal conservatorships that were initially temporary, but quickly became permanent. She was not allowed to make any decisions on her own, and instead needed the input of her conservator/father Jamie Spears, who was supposed to work in her best interest.

The court had replaced Britney's father with a professional conservator in 2019, but he still had control of all her assets and finances. Until then, Britney was not on speaking terms with her father, and even claims to have feared him. She claims to not know what her father was doing in terms of her finances, and did not believe he considered her best interests when making any decisions. Supposedly, Jamie started to get involved with her health and did not let her get her IUD out and was making her take medications such as lithium against her will. Britney also claims that he was abusive.

Ethical implications arose from Britney's conservatorship case. For example, the question of autonomy became a common one, as Britney could not make any decisions for herself and also was being controlled medically, preventing her from having any bodily autonomy. Non-maleficence was also an avid discussion because of her allegation that Jamie's conservatorship was not working in her best efforts. Finally, outside of Britney's case, inequity in conservatorships was a common conversation, as more people became aware of what a conservatorship actually is and how it often disproportionately impacts people with disabilities or histories of mental health issues.



Besides the ethics of the case, legal implications were also discussed as a result of Britney Spears's conservatorship. People questioned whether Britney was receiving adequate legal representation in order to make her voice heard after it had been suppressed for so long. People also debated whether due process in this conservatorship was being followed and if her rights were being protected, especially after the abuse allegations she made and the evidence she provided. In addition, the case prompted discussions about the need for reform of conservatorship laws to protect those under conservatorship and provide them with humane treatment.

Not only were ethical and legal implications discussed, human rights implications were as well. People debated how Britney's conservatorship infringed upon her right to personal freedoms including working and happiness. Additionally, people discussed the lack of privacy Britney had regarding her conservators, especially considering her medical and personal information that several people had access to. Finally, people began to discuss how conservatorship is often discriminatory.

Some final legal details that may be important to take note of are the exact purpose of the case, which was to deliberate Britney's petition to terminate the conservatorship due to her father's mistreatment, and the lawyers. Britney's most significant lawyers consisted of Mathew Rosengart, Samuel Ingham III, Larry Rudolph, and Lisa MacCarley. Jamie's representation was composed of Alex Weingarten, Vivian L. Thoreen, and Jeffrey Wexler.

Human Rights & Autonomy

In the United States, human rights and individual autonomy are foundational principles enshrined in various laws and legal frameworks. Autonomy refers to the right of individuals to make decisions about their own lives, free from undue interference or coercion. This includes the ability to exercise control over personal affairs, such as finances, healthcare, and lifestyle choices. However, in cases where individuals are deemed unable to make decisions for themselves due to incapacity or disability, conservatorship or guardianship may be established to provide necessary support and protection.



While conservatorships are intended to safeguard the interests of vulnerable individuals, there is ongoing debate about the balance between protection and the preservation of autonomy. Ensuring that conservatorship arrangements respect the rights and dignity of the conservatee is essential, including periodic review and oversight to prevent abuse or exploitation of power.

Along with the Britney Spears case, there are hundreds of other examples of controversial conservatorships. One instance of this is the Stan Lee conservatorship case which involved the legendary comic book creator Stan Lee, who faced a legal battle over his affairs in his final years. Lee's affairs were managed by various individuals amid allegations of elder abuse and financial exploitation. The case highlighted concerns about the vulnerability of elderly individuals and the need for proper oversight in conservatorship arrangements.

Another instance of this is the Amanda Bynes conservatorship case, similar to the Britney Spears case, involving the former child star Amanda Bynes, who was placed under conservatorship in 2013 following public incidents and mental health struggles. Bynes' mother was granted conservatorship over her affairs. In 2020, Bynes announced her intention to end the conservatorship and regain control of her life, sparking discussions about autonomy and mental health support.

Possible Evidence

In the court case, various types of evidence could be presented throughout the proceedings. Some examples include Britney's medical records and psychological evaluations, financial records, testimonies from people who knew the Spears family personally, and reports and media coverage. The medical and psychological evaluations could be used to prove Britney's poor mental health and well-being and prove she was unable to make decisions for herself.

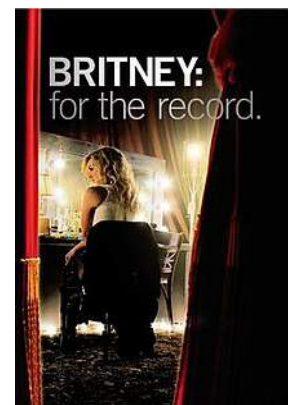
The financial records may be used to assess Britney's ability to manage her life and her estate properly. Key witnesses will be able to give valuable insight on Britney when she wasn't in front of the spotlight. The media coverage and incident reports can be used to show Britney's erratic behavior and struggles, and her need for conservatorship. Or maybe it will be used to show that conservatorship is not needed in any capacity, and Britney Spears should have been free from the chains of her father's influence far earlier.



Media Coverage

MTV: Britney for the record

MTV's coverage of the Britney Spears conservatorship case included the documentary "Britney: For the Record," which aired in 2008. The documentary provided viewers with an intimate look into Britney's life during a tumultuous period, offering insight into her struggles with fame, family, and mental health. While the documentary did not directly address the conservatorship, it shed light on Britney's personal challenges and the intense public scrutiny she faced. Through interviews and behind-the-scenes



footage, "Britney: For the Record" allowed viewers to see Britney's perspective on her life and career, contributing to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding her conservatorship and the broader issues of celebrity and mental health in the media spotlight.

Framing Britney Spears

Framing Britney Spears is a New York Times documentary film that explores the life and career of pop icon Britney Spears, focusing particularly on her rise to fame, the intense media scrutiny she faced, and the conservatorship that has controlled her life and finances since 2008. The documentary examines the role of the media in shaping the public's perception of Britney, often portraying her in a negative light and contributing to the challenges she has faced.

The film delves into Britney's early career, from her beginnings as a child star on "The Mickey Mouse Club" to her meteoric rise to fame as a pop sensation. It explores the intense media attention she received, including scrutiny of her personal

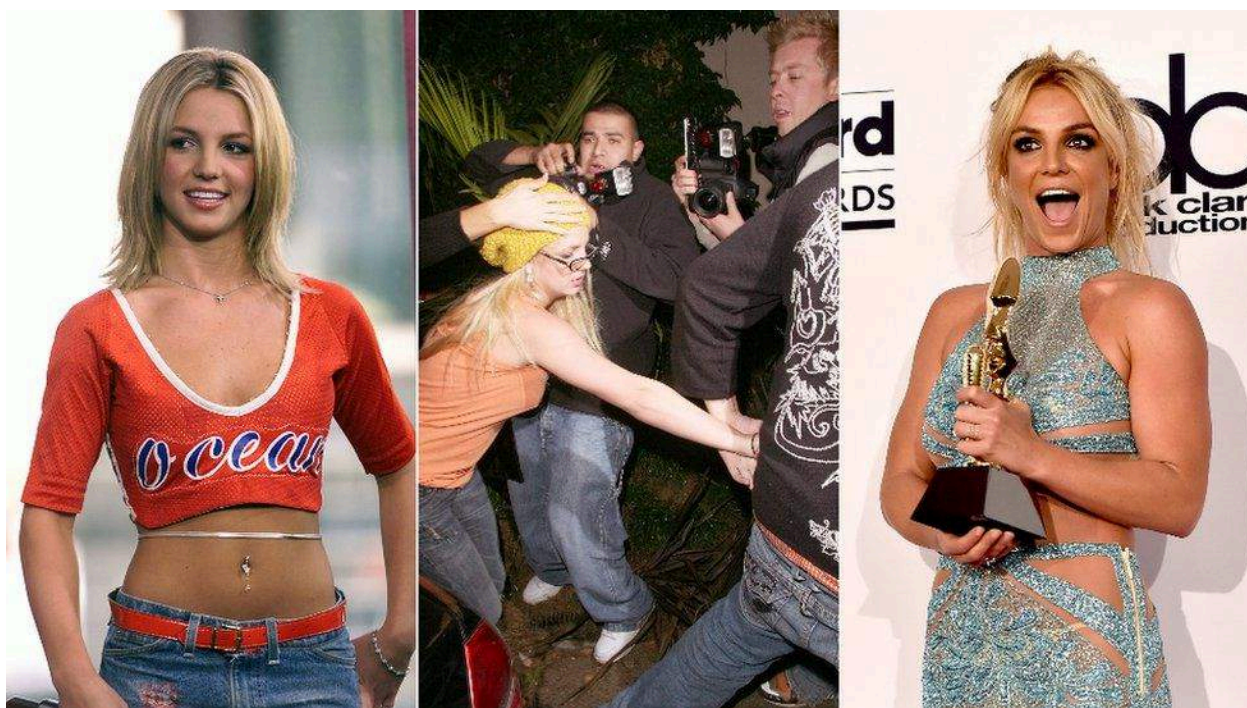




life, relationships, and mental health struggles. The documentary also highlights the ways in which Britney pushed back against this scrutiny, including her famous 2007 breakdown and the subsequent events that led to her conservatorship.

One of the central themes of the documentary is the conservatorship itself, which has been in place for over a decade. The film examines the legal arrangement and questions whether it is truly in Britney's best interests, considering her continued success and ability to work. It also explores the #FreeBritney movement, a grassroots campaign led by fans who believe Britney is being unfairly controlled and deserve autonomy over her own life.

Overall, *Framing Britney Spears* offers a thought-provoking look at the complexities of fame, mental health, and the media, raising important questions about privacy, autonomy, and the treatment of women in the public eye





Committee Goals:

Delegates in this committee represent legal employees, friends, and family members from both sides of the issue—those that think Britney should have her freedom or those that believe the conservatorship is in her best interest. Over the course of this committee, it is your goal to craft directives and create solutions that bridge this divide, find the best arrangement for Britney, and address the media's attention on the issue. You will respond to crisis updates in your directives along with the debate preceding.

While it is important to stick to character positions, it is more important to remember that these are real people and this case is ongoing. Debate must be respectful and it is essential to understand that this is a case of autonomy and freedom. We will not be following the solutions of the case in reality; use your imaginations and adapt to debate.

Questions to Consider:

1. How will you stop misinformation on the case and encourage transparency about mental health in the media?
2. Can we define a line between supporting mental health and stability and limiting autonomy?
3. Do conservatorships still have a place in the American entertainment industry?
4. How can we create a solution that mends relations between Britney and her family?
5. How can we give Britney reparations for the loss of her freedom and the exploitation of her career?





Timeline

September 2006: Britney gave birth to her second son, Jayden James, with then-husband Kevin Federline. However, Britney had a hard time adjusting to new life as a mother and many suspect that Spears suffered from postpartum depression.

November 2006: Spears filed for divorce with Kevin and they decided to handle the children custody peacefully, however, they noted their reason for separating as irreconcilable differences.

January 2007: Spears lost her aunt, with whom she was close, to ovarian cancer. Soon after she shaved her head as solidarity, and when she exited the salon, she attacked a paparazzi car.

October 2007: Britney Spears lost custody of her two sons for undisclosed reasons.

February 2008: Britney Spears' conservatorship is established, granting her father, Jamie Spears, control over her personal and financial affairs.

March 2019: Amid concerns over her father's health, Britney voluntarily enters a mental health facility, leading to Jamie temporarily stepping down as conservator. Jodi Montgomery is appointed as the temporary conservator of Britney's person.

August 2020: Britney files a petition to remove her father as the sole conservator, resulting in the appointment of Bessemer Trust as co-conservator of her estate alongside Jamie Spears.

February 2021: The documentary "Framing Britney Spears" is released, sparking widespread public interest and support for Britney's cause. The #FreeBritney movement gains momentum as fans and advocates rally for her freedom.

Summer 2021: Britney addresses the court directly, expressing her desire for the termination of her conservatorship. Her testimony reignites scrutiny of the conservatorship arrangement and prompts discussions about the need for reform in guardianship laws.



Character List

1. Alex Weingarten
2. Andrew Wallet
3. Bryan Spears
4. Christina Aguilera
5. Felicia Culotta
6. Jamie Lynn Spears
7. Jason Rubin
8. Jason Trawick
9. Jeffrey Wexler
10. Jodi Montgomery
11. Justin Timberlake
12. Kevin Federline
13. Larry Rudolph
14. Lisa MacCarley
15. Lou M. Taylor
16. Lynne Spears
17. Madonna
18. Mathew Rosengart
19. Paris Hilton
20. Robin Greenhill
21. Sam Asghari
22. Sam Lufti
23. Samuel Ingham III
24. Vivian L. Thoreen



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