

January 6, 1992

Mrs. Renee Bigler  
40 Doubling Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830

Dear Mrs. Bigler,

I have searched my collection of videotapes and cannot find one of the Phil Donahue interview to which you refer. Since your letter asks that it be returned, it is probable that I did so at the time.

I appreciate the problems with your son. Looking back at our experience since 1987, I do believe that we have confirmed the observation first reported by Meduna in 1937, that patients who have been seriously and continuously ill for more than two years achieve little persistent benefit from ECT. We treat only one such patient, mainly because without ECT he becomes aggressive and hostile, and with it is more relaxed and cooperative. His family insists that we continue, even though he remains in a protected environment.

It is probable that the hope of an important effect from ECT for your son is misplaced.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry