

Some of the Turpin children are playing the guitar to heal

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Police say they [lived in squalor](#) for years, malnourished and deprived of contact with the outside world. Their parents are accused of torturing them.

Now on the road to recovery, David and Louise Turpin's seven adult children are turning to music to help them heal.

They've been learning to play the guitar and singing Tom Petty's "Learning to Fly" and John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" as a form of musical therapy, said Mark Uffer, the CEO of Corona Regional Medical Center, where the five women and two men have been recovering since they were taken from their parents' home in January. The six minor children were taken to a separate hospital.

Uffer said that all of the adult children "continue to be stable" and are making progress in their recovery. He declined to go into detail, citing privacy rules.

Scientific research supports theories that music is healing. "The studies show that music can create profound neurochemical and biological changes, tangible, demonstrable ones," said psychologist Daniel Levitin, a professor emeritus at McGill University in Montreal, who specializes in neuroscience and music.

"Those changes can in turn affect things like mood, even the healing of physical wounds and psychological wounds as well," he said.