



# Texas Home School Coalition ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas*  
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September 22, 2004

Robertson County Sheriff  
Hon. Gerald Yezak  
P.O. Box 1109  
Franklin, TX 77856

Dear Sheriff Yezak,

By way of introduction, let me state that the Texas Home School Coalition is a statewide organization of home educators with over 60,000 home school families on our mailing list, some of whom are in your county. Our mission is to serve the home school community and protect the right of parents to teach their children at home.

I am writing in response to a contact from your office with a home school family in Robertson County earlier this month. I left a message with your office some time ago and received no response. According to this family, you or someone from your office visited this family regarding a complaint filed with Child Protective Services (CPS) concerning allegations of child neglect. In the course of the discussion at that time, you or someone from your office asked a number of questions concerning the family's home schooling. If you were investigating the complaint of neglect, you should be aware that compulsory attendance statutes are not in the purview of CPS but are the responsibility of the local school district. I have enclosed a letter from the head of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services dated April 20, 2004, on that issue for your review.

In addition, I have enclosed a letter dated April 20, 2004, from the Texas Commissioner of Education regarding how local school districts should handle complaints against home school families in regard to the enforcement of the compulsory attendance laws. The courts of Texas have affirmed that families teaching their children at home are private schools and, as such, are not regulated by the state as to curriculum, hours, or teacher credentials.

I hope this information will be helpful in responding to requests from local CPS and/or school officials with regard to home school families. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Lambert

Enclosure: TDFPS Letter; Commissioner Letter

cc: Thomas Chapmond, Commissioner TDFPS; Dr. Shirley J. Neeley, Commissioner of Education; Robert Scott, Chief Deputy Commissioner of Education; State Senator Steve Ogden; State Representative Jim Dunnam; Texas home schoolers

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