



Texas Home School Coalition ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas
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October 12, 2012

Audrey Deckinga
Assistant Commissioner
Child Protective Services
PO Box 149030
Austin, TX 78714

Ms. Deckinga:

I am writing this letter to follow up on our previous communication. I received a letter from you in January of this year answering questions regarding the process by which CPS deletes records from its database for individuals whose investigations were ruled out and regarding what action an individual should take if the individual disagrees with the conduct or filings of a CPS investigation. In that letter you stated your office was in the process of clarifying the policy regarding home schooling and would update THSC as soon as that process was completed.

Following the January letter, we also received a letter from Howard G. Baldwin Jr., commissioner of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), confirming that CPS and DFPS are “fully committed to ensuring the best possible educational outcomes for all children and youth receiving services” and that “there is no CPS policy, practice, or state law that prohibits home schooling as an education option for students receiving services from DFPS.”

Commissioner Baldwin mentioned that CPS caseworkers would be reminded, through a statewide Protective Services Action (PSA) memo in August, before the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, that the practice of educating one’s children through home schooling is not considered child abuse or neglect. Can you confirm that the PSA was distributed to CPS caseworkers around the state? If so, we would appreciate it if you would mail a copy to our offices for our records.

On another policy issue, it has been brought to our attention that changes are being considered to the CPS policy regarding investigations. Can you clarify for us what changes are being made to CPS policy at this time?

In summary, we are requesting that you clarify the changes that are being made to CPS policy, and we are also requesting that you send us a copy of the PSA memorandum that Commissioner Baldwin stated would go out to CPS workers in August or update us on the status of that PSA.

Sincerely,

Tim Lambert

cc: Howard G. Baldwin, Jr., Commissioner Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; Texas home schoolers

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