



Texas Home School Coalition ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas
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October 26, 2005

Sheriff Allen Bridges
Hays County Sheriff's Department
1307 Uhland Road
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Dear Sheriff Bridges,

By way of introduction, let me explain that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide organization of home educators with almost 70,000 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 Hays County earlier this month. According to the mother, a deputy from your office visited this family regarding her home schooling her son and told her that, in order to teach her son at home, she had to be "certified." Sheriff Bridges, that statement is not true. 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 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.

I hope this information will be helpful in informing your officers of the legal rights of Texas parents to teach their children at home. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Lambert

Enclosure: Commissioner Letter

cc: Dr. Shirley J. Neeley, Commissioner of Education; Mr. Robert Scott, Chief Deputy
Commissioner of Education; State Senator Jeff Wentworth; State Representative Patrick Rose;
Texas home schoolers