



Texas Home School Coalition ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Serving and Protecting the Home School Community of Texas
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October 14, 2011

Child Protective Services
Mr. Jerone Turner
Case Worker
2525 East Highway 175
Kaufman, Texas 75142

Mr. Jerone Turner:

By way of introduction, let me explain that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators with almost 70,000 home school families on our mailing list, many of whom reside in your area. 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 regard to your contact with Ms. K____ B____, a home school parent in Terrell and member in good standing with our organization. According to Ms. B____, since her husband's decline in health and his grandparents' involvement in the situation, there have been allegations investigated by your office on two occasions since May. It is her understanding that all allegations of abuse and neglect have been unfounded and yet CPS has sought to compel her to stop homeschooling and place her children in public school in May and now again.

Ms. B____ informed us that in a recent "family meeting" with you she was threatened with the taking of her children by CPS should she refuse to sign a form authorizing CPS to test her children academically. She also stated that her husband, who is in a mental hospital and according to you has been diagnosed with a mental disorder has already signed the form to allow CPS to academically assess the children. She signed the form under coercion. She further states that you, Mr. Turner, asserted to her that she is required to place her children in public school unless she meets the criteria of a list of rules and restrictions, such as being a certified teacher, having a college degree, and following an approved curriculum. That is *not* true. Her father, who was present, corroborates her account.

Mr. Turner, as a CPS worker, you have no authority over home schools nor can you or CPS legally require home school families to submit to academic testing or require them to place their children in the public school system absent evidence of abuse or neglect. Home schools have been determined by Texas courts to be private schools and, as such, their students are exempt from the compulsory attendance statute, and the state does not regulate, monitor, or oversee them contrary to your assertions.

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I have enclosed the memorandum from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services issued in March of 2005, which directly bears on this issue, for your review. The Commissioner of DFPS has affirmed that this is still the current policy for the agency. I have also included the most recent letter from the Commissioner of Education regarding home schooling for your information as well. I plan to contact the Commissioner of DFPS regarding your actions, statements and violation of DFPS policy regarding this home school family and any other actions necessary to end the harassment of this innocent home school family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Lambert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Tim Lambert

Enclosure: DFPS Memo; TEA Memo

cc: Ms. K____ B____; Ms. Chancellor, Supervisor, CPS; Assistant Commissioner Audrey Deckinga, CPS; Interim Commissioner Howard G. Baldwin Jr, TDFPS; State Senator Bob Deuell; State Representative Lance Gooden; Mr. Thomas Ratliff, State Board of Education; Texas home schoolers