

February 2, 2015

Dear Governor Haley,

My name is Tisha Marie French. My family and I reside in Greenwood, South Carolina. If at all possible, I would appreciate your much needed assistance in dealing with a problem that I have with the Department of Social Services.

In October, 2013, I was given custody of my half-brother's two children, an eight-year old girl and a four-year old boy, by DSS as a foster parent. The parents were charged and found guilty of child neglect second offense times two. They were sentenced to ninety days, time served in January, 2013. In December, 2013, DSS conducted a meeting attended by their representatives, myself, my parents, my fiancée, and his mother. At the time DSS was very cooperative and friendly and answered all of our questions. We were asked what we needed from them and thanked repeatedly for taking these children. As we already had five children, we asked for continued ABC vouchers, FI for these two children only, and food stamps, again for these two only. At the time, the older child received \$730 per month SSI. We were told all of this would happen or continue.

In January, 2014, I was granted permanent custody of both children. The courts ordered \$50 per parent per week with the state paying until they were released which was sometime during that month. The parents were given visitation rights at my discretion. At this point (February, 2015), we have received nothing from the parents or the state. The parents have not requested visitation and have since had another baby. We have not received the food stamps and the ABC vouchers and FI were retracted. The vouchers were discontinued because it was determined after twenty-six weeks that I had too much income. I am employed as assistant manager with First Credit Services in Greenwood. DSS closed this case in January, 2014 shortly after our meeting. I was notified not to attend the final meeting as they were going to get a continuation. However, they finalized the case that day and never followed through with the court orders or their guarantees.

I have repeatedly tried to contact DSS even leaving messages on the Greenwood supervisor's voice mail. I do realize that our case worker, Larry Rice, has since left DSS as well as the supervisor at that time, Sherry Vaughn. I have not had the courtesy of a returned call from anyone at DSS.

I would deeply appreciate any assistance that you might be able to provide. I am asking only for help with the two foster children.

Thank you for your assistance,

Tisha M. French

