

From: Mottel, Haley <HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov>
To: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 9/22/2014 11:30:41 AM
Subject: FW: dss ~ Website email from michelle murphy to ALL House Members

From: Rice, Pam [mailto:Pamela.Rice@dss.sc.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Mottel, Haley
Subject: RE: dss ~ Website email from michelle murphy to ALL House Members

Ms. Mottel,

This one would be a general response due to the lack of specific information and in most cases there is more that is going on than is shared. The grandmother did not provide names so I am not able to research this. In general, when children enter foster care, both parents are notified and receive petitions to appear. At that time they have the opportunity to contact the clerk of court if they are unable to afford an attorney so that the clerk can assign an attorney. In all cases, the child/ren are represented by a GAL and an attorney who only represent their interest. The court ruling must be complied with by all parties and to respond it would help to know what the last order states. It sounds like the father was also identified as the perpetrator therefore the child was not placed with him. If family members were identified for possible placement, then the agency would be responsible for assessing their protective capacity and ability to provide for the children (including mental/ emotional, medical/physical and financial as well as criminal and central registry checks on all adults in the home). Any parent can petition the court for return however if the mandates of the court aren't followed it can lead to the agency filing a petition for contempt—a decision the agency's attorney would make. If the grandmother isn't a party to the agency's legal action and she is wanting to pursue custody that she can hire an attorney to do so. Follow up hearings should be scheduled and perhaps her son can inquire, if he hasn't already, about placement with other relatives. Children are to be returned to the parents when it is established that the behavior that brought the child into care has changed and that it is safe for the children to be returned.

If you want to discuss further, let me know and I will call you.

Sincerely,

Pam

From: Mottel, Haley [mailto:HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:18 AM
To: Rice, Pam
Subject: FW: dss ~ Website email from michelle murphy to ALL House Members

Pam,

Please see the email below from Ms. Michelle Murphy. She is a paternal grandmother. According to her email, her granddaughter was removed from her mother's custody. The grandmother is advocating for her granddaughter to be placed in her son's custody who is the father of the child. Please respond to me today with guidance on how to follow up with Ms. Murphy regarding the current status of this grandchild and any information that I can share with the grandmother regarding this case.

Thank you,
Haley

From: murphy060172@gmail.com [mailto:murphy060172@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2014 12:01 AM
Subject: dss ~ Website email from michelle murphy to ALL House Members

There needs to be more regulations with department of social services. my granddaughter was taken and put into foster care over a year ago. the judge over the case is not trying to get her home at all, mainly because he messed up in march of 2014 by giving her back to her mother. she was taken out of her care because she got hurt in her mothers care but the mother blamed her father while he had her during a four hour visit. back in march she was given custody back, the mother only had her not even 10 hrs and she was at the hospital with her two month old baby with shaken baby syndrome. so both children were taken. no body is trying to get my granddaughter back with my son her father or anyone in our family.....PLEASE HELP US..SHE NEEDS TO COME HOME.....

michelle murphy
1085 hearn st apt g
rockhill, SC 29732