

From: Taylor, Richele
To: Richele Taylor (richeletaylor@gov.sc.gov) <richeletaylor@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 9/30/2016 1:59:20 PM
Subject: internal

For Internal Notes:

The DSS class action reached a settlement over the summer. When a class action settlement is reached, federal law requires notice of the settlement be given to the proposed class of plaintiffs as it is being settled on their behalf. The proposed class of plaintiffs must be afforded the right to prepare a written statement and/or testify if they disagree with the settlement. This Tuesday, October 4th, the Court will hold a hearing to allow any proposed class member to testify against the settlement or state why they should not be part of the settlement. We expect a few parents with current or past DSS cases may appear to testify, but opposing counsel has not specifically requested anyone to testify. DSS will have Director Alford to speak in favor of the settlement. Of note, Epworth is planning to attend and ask for an exception to the settlement. The settlement says personal homes are better than group homes, and placement is preferred in an individual home. Epworth believes it is commiserate to a personal home due to its environment. While this hearing may generate press, neither side has actively called for press coverage. The parties are working together to have a joint press statement from all parties if a statement is requested by the press. Butch Bowers will attend the hearing on the Governor's Office behalf.

Richele K. Taylor
Chief Legal Counsel
Office of the Governor
O: 803-734-8465
C: 803-231-9763

It's a great day in South Carolina

Safe Place SC – www.safeplaceSC.sc.gov