

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 12/7/2014 9:09:38 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Need your help

Title: Mr
First Name: John
Middle Initial: R
Last Name: Poole
Suffix: III
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Street Address 2:
City: Richburg
State: SC
Zip: 29729
Phone: 803-899-1845

Email: johnrpoole@yahoo.com

Affiliation: Constituent
Message:
Sunday, December 7, 2014
Ref: Poole, Kadence and Johnny
Case #2014-DR-18-1483

Gov. Haley,

I wrote to you once before and was very grateful with your help. This problem that has presented itself is one I cannot understand and was hoping you could help me with. We have a news channel here that has a program that would also investigate it, but considering you have enough bad press with DSS, I thought it best to come to you.

Recently there has been a problem in our family and my fiancé's grandchildren were removed from their parent's home. We understand why, because there were allegations made on both sides of things that possibly or not occurred. Our problem lies in the fact that we petitioned to get the children so that they are not stuck in foster care and the state has to pay for their care when we are willing to take on the responsibility. We were told at first that we would get them. This was by Elliott Ray, who told us he was the supervisor of DSS in Summerville, SC. He told us to be prepared to take the children home with us after court. Then we were told we had to have drug tests, we did them that day. Of course we passed, I am a substitute teacher and he is a police officer. We were interviewed by the Guardian ad Litem and opened our home to whoever needed to come. We crossed all our t's and dotted all our i's. We did whatever we were told to do.

The day of the hearing, November 13th, we were told we live too far away and that they did not want the children to have to change schools or therapists. First of all, yes we live two hours away, but we are willing to make sure the children see their parents. We live near good schools and there are therapists nearby. They would have to change schools wherever they end up. Being away from all that mess will also give the children a breather. We live on 10 acres of land, have a horse and dogs. We have a five (5) bedroom house and only use two. I substitute at the elementary school where they would attend. My fiancé is a police officer and his mother lives downstairs. No agreement could be met so the children were placed back in foster care until another court date could be set. How wrong is that? We have a home waiting for them and they are in the system. Help them. Why should the state pay someone to take care of them when we can? Why have them away from their family over the holidays.

The other side of the family, Brittany's, is whom DSS has been favoring and that is not fair. They were recommended to be drug tested, we were ordered to be drug tested. We should get our money back. Then they don't want the children to change schools, but if other members got them they would have to change schools. We have good schools here and good therapists, we

are near Rock Hill and an hour away from Columbia, we have cars, and we can drive where they need to go. Then Elaine Maple, who works with DSS, told the anger management therapist for the father not to come back anymore because it was a waste of time since the mother was going to get the children back. Ms. Maple has interviewed the father for a total of less than ten (10) minutes. It was obvious in court that she has spent a great deal of time with the mother. I always thought DSS was supposed to be impartial and only have a vested interest in the children. She is not being impartial and should have spent time with both parents. I have no problem with the mother getting them back, or the father, as long as all requirements are met. The mother has tried to commit suicide and is on medication. We just want what is best for the children and I feel that is getting them into a home away from all the confusion. Give them a fresh start with stability, and if that means for the next 50 years so be it. If the mother or father get help, and completes everything that is required, both equally, then they should get custody.

On a separate note, the mother is trying to her brother to get custody. One of the problems with them getting them is that they only live 2 minutes away from the mother. She could walk there and no one could see her. If there is only supervised visitation it would only occur for the father. We know the mother has been able to see the children more than the father. The children have told on her. I know SC is a state that favors mothers, I am one. But the children need to be put first and get out of the foster care and away from all the confusion, if only for a little while.

Being two (2) hours away gives both parents a fair shot at seeing the children. I don't care which parent comes to see them, as long as the children are happy. If the children are closer to one parent than the other it wouldn't work out for the parent who is farther away. Brittany's family would not let the father see the children. They would find a way to keep him away, court order or not. Brittany did it when she had custody. With us here they could come see us or we could meet them.

Please check on this for us. The children were in foster care for Thanksgiving. I would love to see them at home for Christmas. We have a court date coming up on December 15th, it is another mitigation hearing. We just want it to be fair for both of the parents, not favoring Brittany or John. Just make sure this comes out fairly for the children's safety and well-being. We would be willing to bring them here immediately and have them stay with us as long as needed. There would be someone here with them at all times.

Sincerely,
Nancy Knowles

The case is under: Poole, John Robert IV vs. Poole, Brittany
Our address is:
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Nancy E. Knowles
115 Roddey Drive
Richburg, SC 29729

If you have any questions feel free to call:
Lt. John R. Poole III (grandfather) at 803-899-1845