

June 26, 2015

Department of Social Services

212 McDaniel Ave

Pickens, SC 29671

And

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley

Office of the Governor

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Treatment of foster parents by "employee and representative of the office" Ms. Libby, Pickens South Carolina

Good afternoon,

Please note that the formal address to the offices as well as the persons is not used in this correspondence as this letter is being sent to the entire chain of command of said employee. I am certain you all receive letters from parents all the time regarding the unfair treatment of a case worker due to a child being removed from a home. Please understand this is NOT one of those letters! I don't want to come off as a mother bear protecting my cub (regardless of the first gut reaction a mother feels, that is not my intention here.)

I would first like to brag on my child and her husband for a few moments so you will better understand my disdain for Ms. Libby and her current employment. My daughter Amanda Griggs is a long time resident of Pickens County. Amanda was born in the Upstate and left only to attend college out of state, get married and start her family. Wesley Griggs attended the same college my daughter attended in Kentucky. It is a training college that teaches Baptist preachers and persons called to serve. My son in law is a youth minister at Red Hill Baptist Church and my daughter helps him in this ministry. They are extremely active in the church and are embarking on an active life long service to the community. Or rather that may have been halted thanks to your "employee and representative of the office of DSS in Pickens County".

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Upon returning to the Upstate from Kentucky, Wesley and Amanda decided to become foster parents here to assist in the great need we have for loving homes for children. Considering the fact they have two small children of their own and live very active lives with the church and community; as well as both holding down full time jobs. They took on all the classes, doctor visits and training in the call to service of our children in South Carolina.

The first child placed with them was removed from a family where the child and younger sibling were exposed to five and seven times the legal limit of drugs in their system. DSS of Greenville pulled this child as well as the younger sibling back from foster parents within 26 hours to return them to the same family. This alone almost crushed the Griggs who connected with the young child very quickly. Their second child was placed with them in less than a month. The great list of injustices to both the child and the Griggs family is huge. There is no way anyone at DSS nor the state should not be held accountable for this, and I do hope to shed some light on the ill treatment on both sides of this story. The child is the youngest of eight (number nine is on the way now). The child is now in his second placement with foster care and is still under the age of two. His case worker has known him since he was only four months old. The first time she heard him cry as well as laugh was in my daughters care. Crying was while being rushed to the hospital via ambulance for his SECOND round of seizures. (no one felt it necessary to inform the Griggs of the first round, nor the fact said child had a bacterial infection earlier in his blood that was required to be informed to the CDC) The lack of information provided to foster parents is beyond what anyone should subject a family to! As parents our first goal is to protect our children and those around us. How can we if the same people that want you to protect a child don't feel it necessary to let you know things to look for? How can we as parents protect our own children if we don't know what to look for in a child in the home?

This child came into the home and was found at the age of almost two not to have the ability to feed himself without throwing food. (Later found to be a way of hiding the food so he would have something to eat later) Hitting children all the time in daycare and the other children in the residence, also found out later. Again later found out this is normal with "some" children in DSS care. However, in non of the classes do the facts of "this is what you may face and this is the best way to treat it" OH no, all that is taught in the classes is you can't spank, you can only correct by placing a child in time out or talking to them. DSS may be placing a child that has had major physical damage done to them or mental issues arising due to the treatment of them from members in their own homes yet there is zero information being given to the new parents. In standing with the classes the Griggs never touched the child in any way other than a loving care. Upon the child being in the home for over a month, Mr. Griggs being forced out of town for work for almost a month, the child hitting or tossing food every time it has anything in front of him. My daughter prayed, talked with her husband and cried for days over the many injustices for this child. Knowing full well that any actions they may take will now affect their own children in addition to the foster child they have worked so hard to love and protect. My daughter phoned the DSS office in Pickens County requesting to have the foster child removed and placed with a

different family. Here is where "employee and representative of YOUR office" Ms. Libby comes into play.

While at work Ms. Libby phones my daughter and explains to her; "DSS doesn't have to take a child back in less than 10 days. What kind of person are you to try to return this child" Each time my daughter would attempt to explain or talk with this "employee and representative of SOUTH CAROLINA DSS" she would interrupt, belittle and yell at Amanda. Another thing you should understand about my daughter, her level of patience is much higher than mine! Being much older my actions would have been greatly different. Amanda just explained no one is to speak to her in such a manor, that DSS has until at the latest Monday to find a emergency home or a new foster home for the child and then she sat and cried for the remainder of the day. I on the other hand would of left work and arrived just at the DSS office!

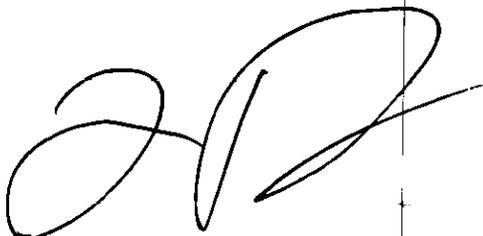
There is ZERO excuse for a "REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA" to EVER speak to another in this manor! The exacting fact that another employee of the Pickens County DSS office phoned my daughter back and the first thing she said was..... "I had hoped to get in touch with you prior to Ms. Libby. She has a history of being rough." EXCUSE ME!!!! Others in the office know what kind of person this is and her treatment of families is not only allowed but they feel the need to cover it up???!!!! Has anyone in either the Pickens County DSS Office OR THE GOVERNORS OFFICE thought to maybe follow up on the fact we need families and this "employee and representative" feels it's not only ok but her duty and job to treat people like this? Have none of you ever thought to maybe follow up on her contact and possibly TERMINATE her EMPLOYMENT??? South Carolina is a right to work state, as a resident of the state, former Notary, mother of three and person that knows our state is much better than this! I would like to know if ANY of you feel the need at this point (prior to the press) doing a little digging in this "EMPLOYEE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATE AGENCY" actions and treatment of others in our much loved state!

I'm very sorry for the length of this correspondence, however there was much to cover and I wanted to try to cover as much as possible so you would have something to go on for your investigation. I look forward to the termination of Ms. Libby and do hope someone from your office will be in touch with my daughter and son in law with a formal apology to the treatment shown by your employee!

If you feel the need to reach me (again, I'm no place as nice as my daughter and much older and wiser) feel free! Tina Parker 864 915-4877 or email

Thank you very much for your time and detailed attention to this correspondence, note the CC I tried to cover all that may feel the need to be in the know. If I missed anyone you think should be informed of your employees actions feel free to copy them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TP' with a large loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tina Parker

CC: Susan Alford, Gail Vickory, Nakita Harrison all at Pickens County DSS and to our great office of Governor and her staff.