

Vickie Wells
38 Smith St
Ware Shoals SC 29692-1527

June 24, 2016

V Susan Alford
State Director, DSS
PO Box 1520
Columbia SC 29202-1520

Dear Ms. Alford,

This is a formal complaint regarding Ms. Ursula Best, Supervisor of the Abbeville County DSS office. My husband and I had temporary custody of our son's four children from July 15, 2015 until we went to court on June 15, 2016. Our case worker during this time was Ms. Stella Dodson and our Guardian Ad Litem was/is Adrienne Wells (no relation to us).

Ms. Dodson was convinced that the parents were not ready to receive the children back and likely would not ever be ready, even though they were receiving all the required counseling and intervention services outlined by DSS. Ms. Wells, also, was not comfortable with sending the two youngest home. Ms. Dodson retired on May 26th and Ms. Twanna Bright was assigned as our new case worker. According to her, she was in agreement with Ms. Dodson and would make the same recommendations to the court regarding placement of the children.

When we went to court on June 15th, however, Ms. Best had recommended that all the children be returned to the parents. I have serious problems with this considering that both case workers and the Guardian Ad Litem disagreed. It seems she has little concern for the children in her care or the advice of her employees. I can assure you that if these children are injured again because of her failure to heed the advice afforded to her, my husband and I will be filing a lawsuit against her and the Department of Social Services.

However, the problem doesn't end there. Following the judges' ruling, I asked Ms. Best when I would be required to turn the children over to the parents (because it was not specified by the judge and I was not able to ask the question of him) and in a derogatory manner, almost with a sneer, she said "TODAY." As we exited the courtroom, I asked her why she felt that the parents were ready to take the children when Ms. Dodson did not and she told me in no uncertain terms that "Ms. Dodson does not work here anymore!" I asked her again why she felt this way when everyone else had reservations and she started waving her arms at me and yelling and telling me to "get out of her space." I explained that I was just asking a question. She kept yelling and waving her arms and called over the court officer who stepped between us. She then asked if she could file charges against me. Ms. Alford, I was not trying to agitate or aggravate, I was just asking a question. Once she mentioned filing charges, Ms. Best stepped into the elevator and I turned around and walked down the stairs and left the building. I had no further contact with her in or out of the courthouse.

On Wednesday, June 22nd, I was contacted by Abbeville County Sheriff's Deputy Davis regarding this incident. Apparently, Ms. Best filed assault charges against me, stating that I "touched" her. She has filed a false police report as she was the one waving her arms around and yelling at me. According to

the Deputy, even the court officer did not see me touch her and there is nothing on the courthouse video footage to back up her statements. I spoke with my son and he (and his lawyer) witnessed the screaming (his words) by Ms. Best. He said he was concerned that she would hit me and watched until the court officer was called over.

In light of all of this, I feel she is biased with regards to the case at hand. The judge ordered six months monitoring of the children/parents. They now reside in Anderson County and I simply do not feel that she or her staff will adequately monitor this situation. With this in mind, I would like to ask that this case be transferred to the Anderson County DSS office for the safety of the children. I do not wish to have to deal with Ms. Best in the future unless, as I stated earlier, these children are injured because they were returned home.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickie Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Vickie Wells
Grandmother

Abbeville County Docket No: 2015-DR-01-188

DSS vs Kenneth Swartz, Pamela Swartz, Vickie Wells

In the Interest of Kaytlyn Swartz (10/18/07), Kalleigh Swartz (5/22/09),
Karsten Swartz (7/03/13), Kaydence Swartz (11/10/15)

Cc: The Honorable Nikki Haley