



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER
Howard G. Baldwin, Jr.

Mekisha [redacted]

Mailing Date: 5/1/2012

Re: Case# 41620233; Notice of Findings of CPS Investigation

Dear Mekisha Murray :

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has completed its investigation of alleged abuse or neglect reported on 3/26/2012 involving one or more children in your family and made the following findings:

Table with 4 columns: Alleged Perpetrator, Alleged Type of Abuse or Neglect, Alleged Victim, Finding. Rows include Physical Abuse for Grace E and Ryan.

This investigation is now closed and there will be no further agency involvement with your family unless we receive another report of abuse or neglect, which, by law, we would need to investigate.

How Findings are Determined.

- A finding of "Ruled Out" means that, based on the available information, it was reasonable to conclude that the alleged abuse or neglect did not occur.
A finding of "Reason to Believe" means that a preponderance of the evidence supports that the alleged abuse or neglect did occur.

How Certain Types of Abuse or Neglect are Defined.

Physical Abuse includes the following acts or omissions by a person:

- physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child, or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child, including an injury that is at variance with the history or explanation given and excluding an accident or reasonable discipline by a parent, guardian, or managing or possessory conservator that does not expose the child to a substantial risk of harm; or
failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent an action by another person that results in physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child; or
the current use by a person of a controlled substance as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, in a manner or to the extent that the use results in physical injury to a child; or
causing, expressly permitting, or encouraging a child to use a controlled substance as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code.

Right to Administrative Review. You have the right to request an administrative review of any "Reason to Believe" finding made against you or your minor child. To request an administrative review, complete and submit the attached form within forty-five (45) calendar days after the date at the top of this letter. If your minor child was the alleged perpetrator in this investigation, you may submit the attached form on your child's behalf. Prior to requesting the review, I encourage you to discuss your concerns with me or my supervisor. CPS may delay or deny your request for an administrative review due to a criminal investigation or court case relating to this investigation. DFPS rules regarding the administrative review process are located in 40 Texas Administrative Code §700.516.

Right to Request Records. You have the right to request a copy of the investigation records. The records will be redacted to remove the identity of the person who reported the alleged abuse or neglect and any other information which you are not entitled by law to receive. Release of records may be delayed or denied if the release would interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation or for other valid legal reason. You may be charged a fee for copies of these records. You may contact me to obtain a copy of the form needed to request these records or you may obtain a copy of this form at:

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection?About\\_Child\\_Protective\\_Services/faqcpsrecord.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection?About_Child_Protective_Services/faqcpsrecord.asp)

**Early Childhood Intervention Program.** If a child named in this letter is under the age of three, DFPS is required to make a referral to the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program administered by the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). If a referral was made, the person who cares for this child should be receiving materials from the ECI program about how children grow and learn. These materials should arrive by mail within the next three weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the investigation or any of the information discussed in this letter, you may contact me at the address or phone number provided below.

