

Honorable Terrence Thomas  
C/O Marilyn Hall  
192 Newell  
P.O. Box 885  
White Cloud, MI 49349

November 8, 2006

Timothy M. and Barbara A. Atwood  
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231-834-0067

Dear Ms. Marilyn Hall,

We are the grandparents of Alyssa and Amber Keast. Today we were present in the courtroom at the post determination hearing for our granddaughters that took place in before Honorable Terrence Thomas. We are writing this letter to inform this court that DHS didn't speak the truth. It was told to the court by DHS that they are "trying their best to confirm us as a prospective adoptive family", when in actuality, they knowingly lied to the court. We have documentation that proves they denied us a week ago. Of which we are outraged, and doing everything we can to change this.

We have been trying to adopt our granddaughter since we learned they were up for adoption, this process started June 28, 2006. DHS and Bethany Christian Service hasn't been trying to confirm us as a prospective adoptive family but instead they have been doing their best to try and eliminate us by making up false allegations. We were denied by Bethany and are awaiting our case conference.

September 9, 2006 I was to start a psychological evaluation with a Dr. in Fremont that is contracted by DHS. I went to this preliminary meeting with this psychologist and set up an actual future appointment for the examination to take place. However after meeting with this fellow we felt uneasy, and changed our minds having him do our psychological evaluations. Unannounced to Bethany we felt it necessary to go outside the local area, to an unbiased psychologist who did not have loyalties to Newaygo County DHS.

September 13, 2006 we had a home study with Bethany and I was told there now was a sex abuse allegation brought up against me, (Tim). Later in this meeting we informed Bethany I wasn't going to see the Dr. in Fremont because I had already made an appointment with someone else out of the area. Interestingly, two weeks later I was talking to Bethany's adoption specialist Suzanne on the phone and she informed me she wasn't going to use this allegation because there is no evidence. Imagine this, they can't use this allegation because I switched Doctors?

We originally had our granddaughters in our care because of their mother's arrest and they were removed unjustly, by our daughter's lies, which she is currently being incarcerated in jail for lying, filing a false police report.

When the girls were placed with us, we were given the option of getting guardianship of them, or putting them in foster care. We expressed to the DHS worker Dan Morgan that

what we wanted was help for our daughter in order for her to be the mother she needs to be to our granddaughters. He suggested we place the girls in foster care, and they would continue living with us, and this way they could provide services to our daughter. This seemed to be what was best. However we would also discover DHS has not been straight up in any of their policies. Suddenly we had broken "visitation" policy allowing the girls have visitation with their mother. *We were never informed of any DHS policies. Nor given any foster care materials, forms or documentation.* We were simply told "keep being grandma and grandpa".

These precious girls were always happy and because of the unjust action of DHS and their own lies, these adorable young ladies have been emotionally and mentally abused by this agency and are now being medicated with anti-depressants and other drugs to maintain them. We are most upset in the corruption of DHS essentially stealing our grandbabies, and even lying to the court to cover up their indecencies.

We are asking for Justice for our granddaughters. We are asking Justice for our own sake. DHS has not allowed us to even have a single visitation with our granddaughters, to give them birthday gifts or Christmas gifts. We were told grandparents don't have any rights. Our granddaughters deserve to know we love them, and that we desperately want them back home. They deserve to know we never abandoned them. These darling girls are our flesh and blood, we are their Grandma and Grandpa, the only ones they have known since birth, their roots are with us. Strangers cannot give them that.

And now that Bethany has denied us the adoption privilege. If we are unable to change this course of action, we will never see our granddaughters again....ever. This is terribly wrong. It is unthinkable that children are being destroyed along with the family that wants them back.

Would you please help us to find justice? We are desperate to hug and kiss our grandchildren again, to love them again with our affections, and provide them everything our granddaughters deserve. We are without legal representation presently, and do not know the next corner to turn, if perhaps legal representation will help us fight for them we will do so. We are asking the court for any direction you could give us, and we graciously ask that our voices be heard. We are fighting for the very lives of our granddaughters.

We are enclosing some documents and we would be ever so grateful if the Honorable Terrence Thomas would look them over.

Thank You for your help,

Timothy and Barbara Atwood

Enclosures: Letter to the Office of Children's Umbudsman, Psychological Evaluation, Drug Assessment, Adoption Assessment and My Rebuttal to the Adoption Assessment.