



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER
John J. Specia, Jr.

February 13, 2014

Mr. Tim Lambert
Texas Home School Coalition Association
P. O. Box 6747
Lubbock, Texas 79493

Dear Mr. Lambert:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) regarding Trevor and Christina Tutt and their involvement with Child Protective Services (CPS). I asked the DFPS Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) to review the case and your concerns and provide me with the outcome of their review. Based on the OCA review of actions taken in the Tutt's case, I feel confident that CPS staff complied with CPS policy and procedure.

You can also be assured that per the Texas Administrative Code, CPS does not conduct investigations based on a child being home schooled. There is no DFPS policy that would interfere with a parent or guardian's personal decision to home school his or her child.

Anytime a report of suspected abuse or neglect of a child is made to the DFPS Abuse Hotline, CPS is legally obligated to ensure the safety of the children involved, which may include conducting an investigation to determine whether or not the allegations are valid. The focus of CPS is to ensure the health and safety of children and to provide appropriate services to meet their ongoing needs for protection from abuse and neglect.

As you indicated in your letter, the court became involved in this case and is ultimately responsible for making decisions in a child's best interest, including placement and permanency issues. The court also makes decisions relating to services that may be provided to a family. CPS and other legal parties to a case make recommendations to the court for consideration.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Tutt. Should you have further questions, you may contact Jose Martinez, Manager of the OCA, and his staff, at 1-800-720-7777.

Sincerely,



John J. Specia, Jr.

cc: Dede Keith, Office of the Governor