



T E X A S
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION ASSOCIATION
Keeping Texas Families Free

December 23, 2014

Ms. Jessie M. Wilson, Senior Deputy
Harris County Sheriff's Office
1200 Baker Street
Houston, TX 77002

Ms. Wilson,

By way of introduction, let me state that the Texas Home School Coalition Association is a statewide advocacy organization for home educators, with almost 60,000 families on our mailing list. As such, we act as a liaison with government agencies in regard to issues related to home education. In fact, the state department of education, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), frequently refers calls received to that office regarding home education to our organization for verification or resolution.

I am writing to you concerning recent interactions you have had with K__ M__, who is being considered for employment at the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Although Mr. M__ met all eligibility requirements for employment at the HCSO, his application was halted due to the fact that his home school high school diploma was not accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission. No home school diploma can be accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission.

Mr. M__ is a member of our organization, and I can assure you that he has complied with all requirements from the state of Texas for home school families, as well as with all requirements for graduation from high school in this state. Texas Education Code Section 51.9241 outlines that the state of Texas "considers successful completion of a nontraditional secondary education to be equivalent to graduation from a public high school."

In Texas, home schools are classified as private schools, and state law provides that home school graduates should be considered equivalent to public school graduates.

I hope this information helps to clear up any misunderstanding of the authenticity of Mr. M__'s high school diploma as recognized by the state of Texas and provides you the information you need to resolve this unnecessary and discriminatory rejection of Mr. M__'s application.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Tim Lambert

CC: Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia; Houston Mayor Annise Parker; State Representative Harold Dutton; State Senator Rodney Ellis; K__ M__; Texas home schoolers