



Child Placing Agency
140 Castle Dr.
Madison, AL 35758

October 17, 2023

Governor Kay Ivey
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Governor Ivey,

Kids to Love is an outstanding agency in the state of Alabama who strives for excellence in service to children and families daily. We meet the needs of children and their families who are involved in Alabama's foster care system without receipt of any state or federal funding. Our staff are strong advocates for these children and their families. We provide safe and loving homes for children. We meet their educational, emotional, and tangible needs on a daily basis. While Kids to Love has established great relationships with staff in the county DHR offices, the excellence in which we serve has created a conflict between Kids to Love and State DHR.

Leadership at State DHR feels threatened by the level of service Kids to Love provides instead of viewing Kids to Love as a partner agency. State DHR staff have made claims against Kids to Love that are not based on policy or minimum standards. No claim made by State DHR was related to the quality-of-care children receive from Kids to Love programs. In an attempt to satisfy State DHR, Kids to Love immediately complied with every superficial request for change in practice. State DHR replied to our good faith efforts by continuing retaliation against our agency by suspending referrals to our programs. After the suspension was put in place, Kids to Love was audited by staff at State DHR which resulted in ZERO deficiencies for Kid to Love. Kids to Love programs were in total compliance with all policy and minimum standards.

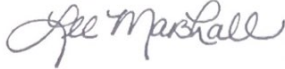
As the CEO for Kids to Love, I have made multiple attempts to communicate with DHR's Commissioner, Nancy Buckner, over the past year to resolve any issues between our agencies. The Commissioner has refused all attempts to communicate with me. Her refusal to communicate has forced me to take legal action against DHR and top-level staff. My staff and I are fighting for the children of Alabama, and I cannot sit by and allow DHR to perpetuate further abuse of the very children they are sworn to protect. State DHR chooses to force county DHR offices to have children sleeping on their office floors rather than placing the children in our safe and loving foster homes. I am calling on you to direct State DHR to rescind the suspension of referrals to our programs and allow us to serve children who need beds to sleep in and families to love and care for them.

I'm sure you have also received and read a letter sent to you from current and former DHR staff outlining the corrupt leadership at State DHR. This leadership has created a crisis in this state. It has cost children their lives, cost foster parents their lives, and cost tax paying citizens of Alabama millions in every lawsuit lost because of incompetent leadership at the highest levels in State DHR.

The Commissioner of DHR is appointed by you, the Governor of Alabama. You are ultimately responsible for these same abuses if you continue to ignore the great issues put before you. I am calling on you to protect the children of Alabama. I am calling for changes to be made in State DHR leadership, namely the Commissioner of DHR and several Deputy Commissioners.

I am formally requesting a meeting with you and your staff in hopes that you are willing to discuss ways to resolve this crisis in Alabama for the children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Marshall".

Lee Marshall
Founder/CEO
Kids to Love Foundation