

EXHIBIT 18  
DATE 1-29-07  
HB 2

To whom it may concern:+

I have had dealings with DFS for over 13 years, as a parent and as a grandparent, as a person who has had complaints filed against them and as a person who has filed complaints.

As a person who has had complaints filed against them, I can tell you they (DFS) scared the hell out of me. My ex-husband would file complaints several times a year during and after our divorce. The one thing I can say is that the complaints were investigated by a very kind woman named Hope. She spoke with me and my daughters, treating us all with respect. All complaints over the years were found to be unwarranted. I do wish I had know that DFS wouldn't swoop in and take my girls. The rules and regulations they must abide to by law were never explained to me, but to be fair, I was so relieved to survive each encounter, I never asked the question.

As a parent who has filed complaints with DFS (twice) I can say that the procedure was easy, but as a parent who was very concerned by what I was reporting, I resent the fact that I never heard anything from them in regards to my concerns. You file a complaint and then hear absolutey NOTHING. When a complaint is filed by a third party, I could understand that. When a complaint is filed by a parent concerned about things that are going on with her own children, I feel that parent has a right to a follow up call telling them what DFS did and what they found.

Our 14 year old daughter got pregnant (while on summer visitation with my ex) and then after the baby was born, moved in with her father. Do to circumstances in that home, DFS was called in by law enforcement to monitor the situation. DFS contacted me, to let me know what was going on and how they wanted to proceed and help the family. I have to admit, all my fears of DFS swooping in came back. Over the months of dealing with them I have found that, not only were my personal fears unfounded, but, DFS (Christie Slaughter in particular) has show me that their priority is not only to protect my grandson, but help my daughter to do what is nessesary to keep both her and her son together in a safe enviroment.

They could have taken my grandson from his mother and placed him with strangers in a foster care home. That certainly would have been the easiest, cheapest and most expedient way of handling the situation. They chose to do family counseling, parenting classes and setting up home based services to help my daughter and to keep an eye on the situation. They have kept me informed of what is going on, for which I am very grateful.

My daughter probably would not agree with me, but I believe that she and my grandson are much better off with DFS having gotten involved.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hastings  
Kalispell, MT