

June 22, 1994
ILR 94-D

Rep. Brent Haymond
164 West 200 South
Springville, Utah 84663

Subject: Child Protective Service Investigation

Dear Rep. Haymond:

As you requested, we reviewed a CPS referral made by Mr. Overson in November 1993, alleging on-going abuse of his children by his ex-wife. We were asked to determine if the Division of Family Services (DFS) conducted a thorough, fair, and impartial investigation. We reviewed the information in the file and compared that information with DFS' policies and procedures. We also reviewed prior referrals of abuse and interviewed the unit supervisor.

The caseworker followed DFS policies in conducting the investigation of the November 1993 referral. Specifically, the worker conducted a joint interview with the police of the two children at school; gathered information from the children's Guardian Ad Litem; gathered information from the children's therapists; and finally reviewed the children's progress in school. We found that the referral was investigated within DFS policy and procedures.

We also reviewed prior referrals. Unfortunately we were unable to conclude whether each of those referrals were investigated thoroughly and in a timely manner because of missing information. Specifically, some foster care files, copies of two CPS referrals, and some court reports were missing. Without this missing information we could not determine whether or not the prior referrals were investigated thoroughly and in a timely manner. Our recently completed audit of Utah's Child Welfare System (Report 93-06), identified a number of cases where information was missing and recommended changes to DFS' filing system. Because we addressed the issue of missing information in our prior report, we chose not to pursue this matter further.

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We hope this letter has provided you with the information you need on this particular referral. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Wayne L. Welsh
Auditor General

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