

PsychRights

LAW PROJECT FOR PSYCHIATRIC RIGHTS, INC.

406 G Street, Suite 206, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 274-7686 Phone ~ (907) 274-9493 Fax
<http://psychrights.org>

December 10, 2004

Sen. Fred Dyson
10928 Eagle River Road Suite 238
Eagle River, AK 99577
(fax) 694-1015

Rep. Peggy Wilson
PO Box 109
Wrangell, AK 99929
(fax) 907-874-3055

State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Office of Children's Services

Dear Sen. Dyson and Rep. Wilson:

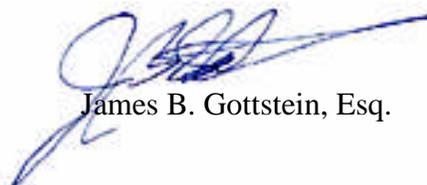
I am pleased you are holding hearings regarding the Office of Children's Services and the difficulties they have had in protecting children it seems they should have known about and acted upon. I am, however, writing about another side of the coin. That is there is increasing reason to believe children taken into custody by OCS are being abused on a large scale.

More specifically, it is almost certain a large number of children in state custody are on dangerous psychotropic medications that have never been approved for children. The worst of these drugs are the neuroleptics, including the newer ones, called "atypicals." These medications make it tremendously difficult for children to ever grow up to lead normal lives. They cause, rather than cure mental illness. It has been found in other states that a large number of children in foster care or outright custody are on these drugs in order to control their behavior, rather than help them deal with the traumas in their lives that are causing the troubling behavior.

When a psychiatrist employed by the State of Pennsylvania to perform a quality assurance review there defied his orders not to look into prescribing practices, he was fired. He found four children had died from improper prescribing. Thousands more are merely being harmed for life. There is every reason to believe the same thing is happening to Alaska kids.

In my view, your committee should look into the situation here in Alaska. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you would like further information.

Yours truly,



James B. Gottstein, Esq.

Commissioner Joel Gilbertson