

CASE #0600 CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The 2000-01 Civil Grand Jury received complaints from relatives regarding placement of a minor child through Children's Protective Services (CPS).

BACKGROUND

The 2000-01 Civil Grand Jury received complaints from relatives regarding placement of a minor child through Children's Protective Services (CPS). The complaints included questions regarding the competency, integrity and honesty of the social workers involved. CPS removed the child from the home of relatives and placed her in a foster home. Relatives alleged that family members were not considered to care for nor given an opportunity to adopt the child.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

- The Grand Jury met with the complainants. They alleged that CPS had not handled their particular case in an appropriate, fair or just manner.
- The Grand Jury met with the Director of Human Services and was given an overview of the department.
- The Grand Jury met on two separate occasions with the Director of Children's Protective Services and the Division Chief for the case in question. On both occasions case files were reviewed in depth.
- The Grand Jury reviewed the Procedure Handbook of CPS.

FINDINGS

- CPS currently staffs 100 caseworkers who receive approximately 13,000 cases per year. Each case has four stages, which are handled by four different case workers. They are intake, court, placement, and facility staff.
- CPS procedures in respect to the placement of this child were followed.
- The court appointed a psychologist to do an in-depth bonding study. The results of the study found that the child in question did not bond well with most relatives.
- The biological mother's parental rights were relinquished in court, which also terminated the rights of all relatives.
- The child is now in the process of being adopted by the foster parents.

CONCLUSIONS

- The procedures of CPS were followed.
- The birth mother relinquished all rights to the child in question.
- The court ordered the child's placement in a foster home.
- The foster parents are in the process of adopting the child.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None

RESPONSE REQUIRED

None