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Nursing Home

No. 3688 P. 2

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

AHCA
501. Lora Road



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CITIZEN SERVICES
08 SEP 24 AM 8:38

Governor Charlie Crist
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

I am writing to inform you of a troubling situation that has arisen during a recent child abuse examination conducted by myself as a member of the District 11 Child Protection Team. We were asked to see a 12 year old girl with severe cerebral palsy, who is bedridden, unable to speak, and completely dependent on others for her care because she had sustained a burn while in the care of a local nursing home. She is in the dependency system and was placed in a local nursing home, Kids Club, because a medical foster home was not available. While in this facility she sustained second degree burns to her hand and thigh. Interviews of the workers caring for her at the time the injuries occurred provided no explanation for how she sustained these burns. DCF has referred this case to AHCA for the purpose of assessing safety in the facility. I was informed by the DCF worker that the AHCA investigation is likely going to be closed with no findings because the investigators from AHCA claim that there is no documentation that the child was burned. In fact, the child has been admitted to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment of second degree burns and there are notes on the chart from the both the dermatology and burn care services, as well as the general pediatricians caring for her, stating that she has these burns. My supervisor, Dr. Walter Lambert, and I called the ACHA investigations supervisor, Ms. Helen Faison, in order to inform her of this. She explained to us that her investigator had no written documentation stating that the child was burned, despite going to the hospital and reviewing the chart. She cited an admission note that was taking into consideration that there may be other causes for the lesions. What she and her investigator have failed to note are the subsequent entries in the chart confirming the diagnosis of second degree burns. When we informed her of this, she stood by her investigator's findings. We were shocked by her response and the apparent lack of due diligence applied to the investigation of this very serious case. We fear that the potential risk for further harm of the other residents in the nursing home facility is high and that little to nothing is being done in response. We have contacted the AHCA offices in Tallahassee and left a message with their department of quality assurance and are currently waiting for a response; we thought that you would also like to be aware of this as well. Please feel free to contact me or Dr. Lambert if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Michael D. Strong, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics
University of Miami/Miller School of Medicine
Child Protection Team



Child Protection Team - Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine

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