

Item #7
4-7-2024

Good Morning Everyone,

My name is _____ a Resource Family for **16 months**. I am here today to bring attention to a couple of alarming issues within Fresno County Child Welfare Services and highlight systemic deficiencies within the department—specifically Social Worker _____, Supervisor _____ and Division chief _____ who have failed to uphold the department's mission: *to keep children safe, protected, and free from all forms of abuse.*

Over the past year and a half, I have documented every step of these children's journey. I have reported regression, trauma responses, and serious safety concerns. I have emailed, called, followed the chain of command, and even included the children's attorney and therapist when the social worker failed to respond. Timely communication is critical in child welfare cases yet these workers are failing to follow procedures. These lack of responses result in the children being left in situations without safety plans because the rights to visits with the parents are more important than the health and safety of the children.

When I reported new **learned sexual behaviors** following unsupervised overnight visits with the biological parent, there was no timely response. When I reported the child's **severe mental health decline**—including daytime and nighttime urination after seven months fully potty trained, extreme night terrors, withdrawal, aggression, and cognitive regression—there was no safety plan, no follow-up, and no investigation consistent with county policy even though I explicitly advocated for at least a safety plan via email and phone calls. The Departments response was visits are court ordered I just need to take them. SW _____ stated to me "How does she explain to the judge why parent has not progressed with the courts time line" That is neglect and continued exposure to harmful situations.

Two significant incidences was witnessed by _____ service worker where the child was subjected to inappropriate scenarios during overnight visits with parent. The Report when unanswered once again. Despite these alarming reports, SW _____ dismissed concerns raised by Therapists, _____ services, educators and the resource family, relying instead on the parents assurance that none of these concerns are occurring in their home. These biases and oversights compromise the safety of the children, rendering the mission statement of Fresno County Welfare system ineffective at best.

The children's therapist has consistently advocated for more services for both parent and children to ensure safety during visits, urging visits to stay supervised and yet SW, Supervisor and Division Chief all pushed to progress to unsupervised overnight visits with parent. The continued progression from supervised, unsupervised and overnight unsupervised has resulted in further trauma to these children while under the county's protection.

Equally troubling is the Supervisor _____ who has failed in her responsibility to oversee _____ actions or review the reports and take action. Instead, I was told by Supervisor Mohair, "*I am not the only case she has.*" During a CFT meeting, Interim Supervisor _____ instructed me to share only "strengths," not concerns—because the department needed to progress the parent to unsupervised overnights to meet court timelines and didn't know what to

tell the judge if they didn't. This Oversight is detrimental on the children, as again, they are being put in situations that has cause regression in all the hard work these children have put in to grow and push past the traumas they have endured their whole life.

I also need to bring attention to something deeply troubling: **Social Worker [redacted] has falsified documentation.** She added the safety concerns I emailed *after* the CFT meeting into the official CFT notes as if they were discussed during the meeting—when I was explicitly told I could not speak about them. She also falsified case notes for monthly home visits, documenting that she completed January and February visits that never occurred. These are not clerical errors. These are actions that compromise the integrity of the case and the safety of the children. It is not only unethical but severely undermines the integrity of the child protection system. Every CFT meeting centered on what the parent wanted—not what the child needed. And every time I raised legitimate concerns about safety and mental health, I was met with unfounded **false allegations** from the biological parent, used as a diversion tactic. Rather than protecting the child, the department allowed these tactics to overshadow the documented harm occurring during visits.

I want to be clear: **This is not a matter of inconvenience. This is a matter of negligence.** Negligence in duty of care. Negligence in response. Negligence in documentation. Negligence that has caused further trauma to a child already in the county's protection.

I followed the chain of command all the way up to **Division Chief [redacted] and still nothing has changed. Division chief [redacted] whos only response was, what do you want me to do mr [redacted] Well I want the county to do its job.** I hit wall after wall, and I no longer have faith that the department is acting in the best interest of the children it is sworn to protect.

Today, I am asking for the following:

- **An independent, external audit** of Fresno County Child Welfare Services—specifically its day-to-day operations, documentation practices, response timelines, and adherence to policy.
- **Accountability** for the failure to investigate serious safety concerns and for the falsification of case records.
- **A renewed commitment** to prioritizing the safety and mental health of children over court timelines, convenience, or reunification quotas.

These children cannot advocate for themselves. That responsibility falls on us—Resource Families, educators, social workers, therapists, and ultimately, this Board.

I am asking you to intervene so that no child in Fresno County is left unprotected because a system designed to safeguard them instead chose to look away.