

JOINT
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
AND
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Friday, February 12, 2016

ATTACHMENT 13

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02/12/16
Kathleen Keyes

Name: Richard & Kathleen Claire Keyes

- We had 2 half sisters placed with us for 15 months
- H&W determined 1 would be adopted the other they hoped to reunify
- H&W told us we could adopt the 1 girl
 - social workers got reports from the school, counselor, lawyer and the guardian ad litem; all supported us adopting her
- The plan for over 2 months was for us to adopt
- At the regular court review Judge Minder ruled the we could adopt the 1 and H&W needed to move the other due to the situation. In the courtroom everyone agreed to keep both girls in the Boise area to continue contact between them and extended family.
- Then all of a sudden we received a call saying the social worker would be picking the kids up the next day and to pack their belongings that evening
- The girls were quickly moved to what the social worker called a temporary placement
- We asked to keep the girls until we figured out what was going on but we were not allowed
- We were assured we could continue contact with the girls, the girls were told we could visit - we were not allowed to contact them once they left our home
- We asked to appeal the decision -
- We had a meeting with the social workers and their managers - we specifically asked why the girls were moved and if there were safety concerns? They said there were no safety concerns they wanted to keep the girls together
- The girls were moved in June
- H&W said we did not have the grounds to appeal
- we asked who made that decision and we were told the same workers that made the decision to move kids determined we did not have the grounds to appeal
- We continued to try to appeal the move, we reached out to the governor's office and had a meeting with H&W in the statehouse

- Nothing changed
- In the fall the 1 girl to be adopted was a Wednesday's child - we applied to adopt even finding a foster home for the other girl until reunification and signing a contract with the other parents that we would keep girls in counseling together and they would see each weekly
- We were not chosen, they moved her to Tennessee over Christmas break
 - this placement lasted less than 10 days, she returned before break was over
- In the late spring she was Wednesday's child again - again we applied - again we were not chosen
 - this placement is in Kentucky - she has no contact with extended family and extremely limited contact with her sister
 - the sister was visiting but now she is aging out of foster care (was never reunified)
- If the 1 girl had stayed in our home she would have been adopted within 18 months of going into foster care and only had 1 placement - our home
- Because of H&W disregard for the professionals advise, our desire, the girls desire (she was 11 and voiced her desire to stay with us), and disregard to Judge Minder's order to move only 1 girl - she was moved 5 times and not adopted for over 2 years
- ever since the girls were moved we have been blacklisted because we went up against them