

66 No effort on behalf of children is ever wasted 99

Attachment # 5
Page 1 of 2

children's
home
society

January 17, 2008

Mr. Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Leon County Courthouse
301 S. Monroe Street, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: Provision and Payment for Medical Evaluations for
Alleged Physical Abuse per F.S. 39.304

Dear Mr. Alam:

This letter is a follow-up requested by Commissioner DePuy on December 18, 2007 to further explain the need to amend our current contract with Leon County to bring it into compliance with Florida Statute 39.404(5).

Children's Home Society of Florida has had a contract with the Leon County Board of County Commissioners for the provision of medical examinations of allegedly physically abused children for many years. The contract was devised to meet the requirement of **Florida Statute 39.304(5) Photographs, medical examinations, X-rays, and medical treatment of abused, abandoned, or neglected child**. The section states "The county in which the child is a resident shall bear the initial costs of the examination of the allegedly abused, abandoned, or neglected child; however, the parents or legal custodian of the child shall be required to reimburse the county for the costs of such examination, other than an initial forensic physical examination, as provided in s. 960.28, and to reimburse the department for the cost of the photographs taken pursuant to this section. A medical provider may not bill a child victim, directly or indirectly, for the cost of an initial forensic physical examination."

The current contract is for \$15,000 per year, an amount set many years ago, when the Child Protection Team completed many fewer physical abuse exams at a much lower cost per exam. At that time, \$15,000 came closer to covering the number of exams completed for Leon County at \$150.00 per exam. Unfortunately, the cost for completing the exams as well as the number of exams being completed has gone up, yet the contract funding has not followed. For example, you'll note from the following data that even at the current per/exam rate of \$150, the contract falls well short of funds needed to serve the current number of Leon County children receiving services. If you also account for the increase in costs to conduct the exam, the difference is even more significant.

Executive Board

Allison Tant
Chair
Sean Pittman
Vice Chair
Abby Dupree
Treasurer
Virginia Dailey
Secretary

Board Members

Allison Carvajal
Tim Center
Tracey Cohen
Ellen Culpepper
Carmen Cummings
Kathleen Daly
Patricia Day
Billy Holder
Chris Kraft
Antionette Meeks
Louise Rill
Katrina Rolle
John Sebree
Gay Webster-Sachs
Melissa Wright

David W. Overstreet

Executive Director

North Central Division

1801 Miccosukee Commons Dr.
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Phone: 850.921.0772
Fax: 850.921.0726
www.chsfl.org



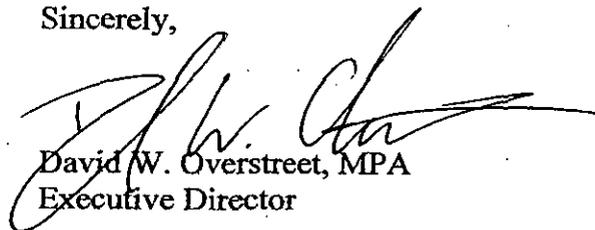
Here is information for the past five years for children from Leon County:

FY	# of exams provided	cost @ \$150/exam	actual cost at \$250
06-07	187 exams	\$150 = \$28,050	\$250 = \$46,750
05-06	177 exams	\$150 = \$26,550	\$250 = \$44,250
04-05	147 exams	\$150 = \$22,050	\$250 = \$36,750
03-04	211 exams	\$150 = \$31,650	\$250 = \$52,750
02-03	165 exams	\$150 = \$24,750	\$250 = \$41,250

The Attorney General's Office has noted the increase in performing such examinations, and, as a result, the amount they allow for reimbursement for a Sexual Assault Exam (which differ from physical abuse examinations covered under the Leon County contract and s.39.304(5) F.S.) increased from \$250.00 per exam to \$500.00 per exam.

The attached amendment is submitted for your review and approval. I look forward to working with you to bring this agreement into compliance with Florida Statute 39.340 in ensuring that the cost of all exams provided to the children of Leon County are reimbursed. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 850-921-0772.

Sincerely,



David W. Overstreet, MPA
 Executive Director

Attachment (1)

- cc: Jane G. Sauls, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
 Ed DePuy, Commissioner At-Large
 Bob Rackleff, Commissioner, District 5
 Cliff Thael, Commissioner At-Large
 John E. Dailey, Commissioner, District 3
 Bill Proctor, Commissioner, District 1
 Bryan Desloge, Vice Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

Herbert W.A. Thiele, Leon County Attorney
 Patrick Casserleigh, Leon County Contract Manager