

# State of Connecticut

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July 23, 2015

The Honorable George C. Jepsen  
Attorney General State of Connecticut  
55 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Attorney General ~~Jepsen~~ *George*:

I am calling on your office to investigate the conduct of Connecticut's Department of Children Families as indicated in the Office of the Child Advocate's investigative report on DCF's juvenile justice facilities: the CT Juvenile Training School (CJTS) and Pueblo Unit dated July 22, 2015.

This report was quite frankly shocking and disturbing. The report concluded months-long reviews of facility video tapes, incident reports, and treatment records at these two facilities by the Child Advocate's office. This review revealed urgent safety problems for the youth placed there in DCF custody. In addition, relevant to your office, the report highlights instances where DCF staff calls in complaints about the treatment of the children under their care and custody for alleged abuse and neglect. In many instances, these cases are not investigated. Often, it is the child that is reprimanded for poor behavior or arrested while the state agency responsible for this abuse and its leadership has gone unchallenged.

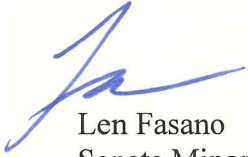
The blatant abuse of children at DCF's locked facilities, and DCF's failure to investigate many of these cases, is abhorrent and inexcusable. Even more sickening is that this is not the first time we are hearing about mistreatment and a failure of the system under Commissioner Joette Katz. In addition, the Office of the Child Advocate found no protocol within the agency regarding how DCF hotline workers should respond to calls about abuse or neglect occurring *within* a DCF facility.

Therefore, I ask that your office immediately review this report and conduct an investigation regarding DCF's failures to meet their responsibilities and the cases in which children were put in danger and caused harm with particular respect to their not investigating whistleblowing complaints made by individuals who witnessed these occurrences first hand. If upon investigation you determine it is appropriate, I would encourage your referral of these matters to other state agencies and officials.

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Unfortunately, at this point I have no confidence in the commissioner's willingness or ability to openly and seriously confront these critical issues within her agency. Your attention to this very urgent matter is much appreciated. The safety and well-being of this sensitive population depends on it.

Sincerely,



Len Fasano  
Senate Minority Leader