

LaReine M.Nixon

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Judge Paula Patrick
Family Court -Chamber # 352
1801 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Judge Patrick,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Khalil Wimes, my three year old grandson with whom you will be presiding over a status hearing tomorrow Friday, March 6, 2009.

Judge Patrick, we need a voice of reason. For three years now Khalil's life, well being and future have been affected by the adults who surround him. A set of biological parents (Tina and Floyd) who until recently couldn't or wouldn't provide a stable home for their children. Randy and Tiffany that aged out of the system and five other children, Kevin, Shakeera, Sayed, Imani and Jasmine with whom Tina and Floyd voluntarily terminated their parental rights. They were put up for adoption. An agency (DHS) whose position is to protect the best interest of the children, failed, and allowed this situation to continue without a vigorous fight, on Khalil's behalf, for three years. And a court system who forced us to give Khalil to Tina and Floyd, when he was a year old, who were still abusing drugs were not working and didn't have suitable housing that resulted in Khalil being hospitalized four days later. He was returned to us. Two more years have passed and recently yet another decision was made by Judge Cunningham to turn him over to his biological parents with whom he has never lived.

This decision was made even though Khalil's D.H.S. caseworker, Jessica Campbell and Khalil's advocate, Monique Sherman told judge Cunningham that this would cause serious physiological harm to Khalil if this was done, which was to no avail. This is a matter of record Judge Patrick, but I have attached two e-mails from Jessica that states this.

We have had Khalil since he was born. Although he had developmental problems early on for several reasons, the drugs in his system and the fact that there was no continuity in care.(in the beginning he was going back and forth daily between my daughter's home and Tina) Once we got temporary custody, he thrived. He was diagnosed with asthma, we took him off simalac, put him on natural nut milk and within two weeks his asthma was gone. His progress has been enormous. He is now functioning beyond his 3 years. He could count to 20 before he was 2. He is computer literate, knows his colors, shapes and can read some words. He doesn't have a cavity in his mouth and is completely healthy. Not only did he bond with the only parental figures (Alicia and Jay Evans) otherwise known to Khalil as mommy and

daddy, he also has a large loving extended family and friends that he has been stripped of for reasons that the professionals working in this field, do not understand, a family that loves him dearly, do not understand and a little boy, Khalil who certainly does not understand what is happening to him. When his caseworker visited him a week ago, he got very excited and got his coat. He thought he was going home and when he was told he was not going home he, cried hysterically. Just hearing this was heartbreaking and almost unbearable. We have hardly eaten or slept since he was removed. This is what prompted this letter. From a grandmother's standpoint my little Khalil has no one to speak on his behalf.

We feel for Tina and Floyd and hope that they can continue to do the right thing for themselves and their new baby Maya. This is not about hurting them. This is about protecting Khalil. Three years is a long time to be with a family and suddenly be forced to live with a family that he does not know.

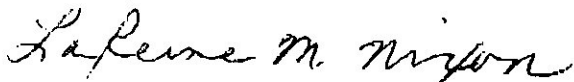
The means do not justify the ends in this case. Based on information that I researched about the agency (D.I.S.) protocols and due process were not followed. Years ago children were allowed to languish in the system for many years. This was changed because it was deemed harmful to children without a determination being made in a more suitable time frame. I will not and can not judge the character of the biological parents for that determination rests with you; however the facts remain as stated within. Khalil is not old enough to understand the "legal" and "procedural" ramifications of the adults and agencies involved, however he is old enough to know and love the only family he's been with his whole life, and is wondering where we are. It is my humble prayer that he is not feeling abandoned by the only family he knows.

We know that you are extremely busy and have many cases that you are presiding over, and we know that the children involved in this system are sometimes case numbers on a docket, but we are praying with every breath that this wonderful little boy, who has had a great head start in his life, be given real consideration that will result in him being returned home.

For your edification Judge Patrick, I have enclosed the updates that we were sending to everyone involved during the visits that outline his disposition and behavior during this process. He stopped eating, was constipated, didn't want to sleep in his own room, which he always did, started having nightmares and was afraid of the dark. He was sad and cried constantly when he had to go on his visits.

I am thanking you in advance Judge Patrick for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



La Reine M. Nixon, a loving grandmother
AKA to Khalil (Mimi)