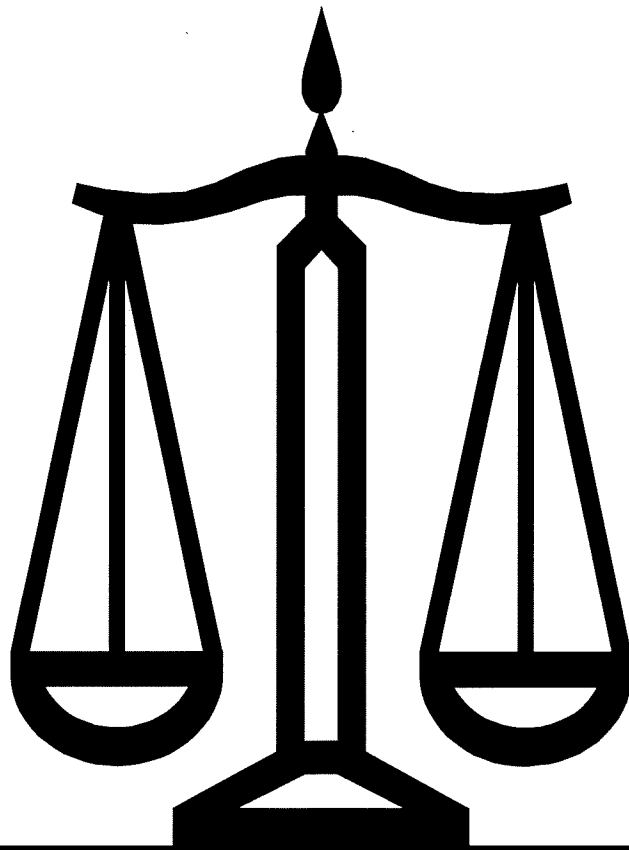


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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

SETTLEMENT - THURSTON COUNTY

M.S., ET AL. v. STATE OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Number: 19-2-06192-34

Settlement Date: 10/31/23 (settled during trial)

Plff Atty: Darrell L. Cochran, Ian M. Bauer, Andrew S. Ulmer & Michael T. Pfau of Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala (Tacoma)

Def. Atty: Sean Hornbrook & Sharia Yancey, Office of the Attorney General (Olympia)

Def. Med.: Russell Vandenberg MD (Psychiatrist) Bellevue

Trial Judge: Hon. Indu Thomas

STATE, DSHS & DCYF NEGLIGENCE

NEGLECT & ABUSE; EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

The State of Washington licensed the J Bar D and Reynolds Creek Boys Ranches to provide 24-hour foster care for dependent children ages 11-17. The Ranches were originally owned and operated by David Goodwin. For years, DSHS was warned that children were being subjected to extreme physical, sexual and emotional abuse and profound, chronic neglect at the Ranches, and that the Ranches were substantially out of compliance with minimum licensing requirements. The warnings were numerous, graphic and detailed, including reports that children were being sexually, emotionally and physically "terrorized", abused and neglected by staff and older residents, that Goodwin was interfering with Child Protective Services investigations, that the assigned licensor was not inspecting or monitoring the Ranches, and that Goodwin's contacts at DSHS were protecting him from meaningful investigation, oversight and/or monitoring. Notwithstanding these reports, DSHS placed numerous young children - including these 12 Plffs - at the Ranches between 1980 and 1985, and thereafter failed to monitor their health, safety and well-being during placement. All 12 Plffs were subjected to horrific physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect at the Ranches, including sexualized assault and violence. The Ranches were closed in early 1985 after a Pend Orielle County Superior Court Judge commenced a Special Inquiry into DSHS' oversight of the Ranches. DSHS' own confidential, internal documents from 1984-85 concluded that - for years - DSHS had failed in its most basic responsibilities

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Facts Cont'd: to protect children at the Ranches. Among other findings, confidential DSHS reports determined that DSHS "did not investigate complaints [at the Ranches] thoroughly," "did not pay attention to the pattern of information in the complaints or the pattern of performance of the [Ranches]," and that abusive conditions at the Ranches were caused by "inappropriate placements by DSHS and an absence of monitoring." DSHS' confidential, internal documents also concluded that the DSHS Regional Administrator responsible for overseeing the Ranches had "attempted to curtail CPS interviews" of children and "directed the deletion from a CPS complaint an allegation that [Goodwin] had held a knife to the testicles of a resident." Notably, the DSHS Regional Administrator failed to appear when called to testify during the Special Inquiry. The assigned DSHS licensor also refused to testify during the Special Inquiry, based on an assertion of his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

Injuries: Severe neglect and abuse; emotional distress.

Result: PLAINTIFF SETTLEMENT for \$16,950,000.