



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

October 15, 2026

Mr. Ricky Robinson
Drum_king12@yahoo.com
8110 Mission Vista Drive
San Diego, California 92120

Dear Mr. Robinson:

This is in response to your letter to Alex J. Adams, Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families, regarding your ongoing concerns related to your family's experience with a child welfare agency in San Diego County. Your communication was forwarded to the Children's Bureau, located within the Administration for Children and Families, and we are pleased to respond. The Children's Bureau is the Federal agency responsible for helping States to improve the safety and well-being of the nation's children and youth.

I recognize that your family is navigating very difficult, ongoing concerns and understand that Malaika and Xayah are very important to you. Please understand that while the Federal Government establishes broad requirements for State child welfare programs, States are responsible for operating and overseeing those programs. Accordingly, Federal oversight generally focuses on compliance with Federal requirements rather than case- or agency-specific concerns. While we are unable to intervene directly in this matter, we can offer the following additional information and referrals as you explore avenues for raising concerns in your State.

If your son's parental rights were terminated by a court of law, please be advised that the parent-child relationship is no longer recognized under State law. The termination of parental rights also extends to the grandparent-grandchild relationship, directly affecting how extended family relationships are legally recognized. In most States, there is no provision for reinstating parental rights or reversing an adoption decree except under certain circumstances. The National Conference of State Legislatures website provides a [listing of State laws](#) that address the reinstatement of parental rights.

As mentioned in our previous response, complaints and requests for case-specific oversight regarding a child welfare agency's case management services may be directed to the [Children's Services Operations Bureau](#) within the California Department of Social Services. Likewise, if you believe Malaika or Xayah's rights were violated while in the custody of the State, you may wish to submit a complaint to the [California Foster Care Ombudsperson](#), which offers information about multiple complaint avenues that may be of interest to you and your family.

To express your systemic concerns and initiate change in your State's child welfare priorities, policies, and practices, you may find it helpful to contact your State representatives to share your perspective and your family's experiences. State legislators are responsible for considering public

feedback when evaluating funding streams and oversight activities related to child welfare services. To find contact information for your elected representatives, visit the [USA.gov website](#).

Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act support a broad range of child welfare services designed to protect children, strengthen families, prevent abuse and neglect, promote permanency, and support, when necessary, foster care, family preservation, and reunification efforts. Child Welfare Information Gateway, as a service of the Children's Bureau, describes how policy changes at the Federal level impact State and Tribal child welfare systems and delivery in [How Federal Legislation Impacts Child Welfare Service Delivery](#).

The Children's Bureau conducts activities to monitor and assess State compliance with Federal requirements. To receive Federal funding, States and Tribes submit Child and Family Services Plans (CFSPs), which describe their goals and strategies for improving child welfare services, and Annual Progress and Services Reports, which provide yearly updates on progress toward those goals. To learn more, see the [Children's Bureau CFSP webpage](#).

In addition, the Children's Bureau conducts [Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews](#) to assess State compliance with Federal requirements related to foster care eligibility and funding claims. When these reviews identify areas requiring improvement, States are required to develop and implement corrective actions specific to title IV-E compliance.

You may also be interested to know that [Citizen Review Panels](#) are composed of volunteer community members who independently examine State child welfare policies, practices, and outcomes and offer recommendations to improve the State's child welfare system. Information is available about [California's New Citizen Review Panels](#), including annual reports that may be of interest.

Finally, additional resources, tools, or information for managing difficult personal situations is available on the Information Gateway [Find Help With a Personal Situation webpage](#).

We encourage you to follow up with the appropriate referral services listed above and in our previous response. With this letter, we have exhausted our resources and there is nothing else that this office can do for you on this matter. We wish you and your family the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer M. Haight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" being the most prominent part.

Jennifer M. Haight
Deputy Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services