

April 18, 2007

To the Department of Human Services,

My name is Clayton Milar. I currently live in Saucier, MS and attend Harrison Central High School.

I have been under the supervision of DHS since I was two years old. At that time, I was shipped to many places, never being allowed to develop a sense of belonging anywhere I went. Insecurity overwhelmed me in the over 40 homes I've been in. I have also stayed in hospitals, group homes, and lock-down facilities. My life has been far from easy.

It was difficult enough to lose my parents and hardly ever hear from them. I really have no memories of my parents and have no idea how to contact any real relatives. I understand my parents signed away their rights, but why were my other relatives not contacted? I've been alone and have no idea where I came from or who I am. I've never had a role model to emulate while under the supervision of DHS.

My stay in the hospitals consisted of consuming unnecessary drugs to prevent me from acting out. The people in these hospitals never took the time to get to know me personally and realize that I really didn't need their ridiculous drugs. I wasn't a criminal! I was a child without the benefit of parents. I wasn't ill! I was simply a creation of my environment. Why should I have been locked up like some sort of prisoner?

I have never had the opportunity to experience a typical, ordinary day like most children. My life has been painfully empty and void of happy memories - and these empty feelings and unhappy memories are all I have.

Children without parents obviously have special needs that should be met. They need one-on-one time with an adult or mentor. They need to go to the park, the beach, or the movies. Celebrating a birthday just isn't enough. These children will enter adulthood with a huge handicap. They are distrusting, have no support system and will find it difficult to have successful relationships.

The damage is already done and can never be repaired. I'm thankful that I have had the opportunity to spend all three of my high school years at Harrison Central. I also feel extremely fortunate that I will graduate next month. I am very proud of myself although I doubt anyone else is, other than some of my teachers.

Sincerely,

*Clayton Milar*

Clayton Milar

Exhibit 1