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Special Education
Formal Written Complaint Form
Kentucky Department of Education
Office of Special Education and Early Learning
300 Sower Blvd., 4th Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-4970

Complete this form electronically and submit with signature.
ONLY ORIGINAL SIGNED COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED
Items denoted with an * are optional.

1. Name of person filing complaint: Kathryn (Katie) Drane

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Numbers: Home

Office

Cell [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

* Relationship to the student:



Parent



Citizen



Attorney



Advocate



Other, Specify

2. Student's Full Name: Luke Owen Drane

Address: [REDACTED]

If student is a homeless child or youth, please include any available contact information.

* Disability Autism (non-verbal)

* District of Attendance Graves

School of Attendance: Central Elementary

* School Address 2262 State Route 121 North, Mayfield, KY 42066

* School Telephone Number 270-328-4900

* School in which alleged violation occurred, if different than above

3. * List person(s) you have already talked with to resolve this complaint and their response to your request:

Admin involved:

Keri Cornwell, Principal

Carmen Robertson, Director of Special Education

Amy Turner, Director of Human Resources

4. Subject(s) the complaint involves: (Please give a brief summary of the violation (s) of the special education law that you believe has occurred.)

Describe the problem, including facts specific to each alleged violation. Use additional sheets if needed.

Please number specific areas of concern, include dates when available.

INFORMATION PROVIDED MUST SHOW THAT THE VIOLATION DID NOT OCCUR MORE THAN

ONE (1) YEAR PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE RECEIPT OF THIS COMPLAINT.

On September 26, 2023, instructional assistant Rebecca Thomason grabbed our autistic and non-verbal son, Luke Drane, age 6, by his arms and shook him while he was sitting quietly on a chair while yelling "don't you ever pinch me again!". He was calm at the time, but had reportedly pinched her 10 minutes prior because he was dysregulated. The incident was witnessed by former MSD teacher Justin Cunningham and instructional assistant Shamber Carrico. They reported the abuse to principal Keri Cornwell who then involved Director of Special Education Carmen Robertson and Human Resources Director Amy Turner.

During the time of this incident, I was employed at Central Elementary as a LBD instructional assistant. I was not informed of the incident until after the school day had ended.

Robertson called me after the school day had ended to let me know there was an incident involving my son and a staff member but could not divulge any details until after an investigation was completed by Turner. She told me to expect a phone call from Turner within 48 hours.

We consulted with attorney Chris Hendricks about the incident, who advised us not to allow Luke to return to school until the investigation was complete and that Luke's safety was secured. I took a personal day from school and kept Luke home from school on September 27, 2023 and notified Cornwell by text that Luke and I would be absent. I stated the reason our attorney gave us.

On September 27, 2023 at approximately 4 pm, I received a call from Turner, who described what happened to Luke as written above, but without disclosing Thomason's name and what she yelled at Luke. (I learned that it was Thomason and what she said upon returning to school on September 28th from both Cunningham and Carrico.) Turner apologized for the incident. When I asked if Thomason had been fired, Turner said "the employee will not be anywhere near your child." I asked if she was still going to work at the school and she repeated her statement--that the staff member would no longer be near Luke. (Continued on next page).

Formal written complaint

Luke Drane

(Continued from previous page)

Upon returning to school on September 28, 2023, Carrico told me that shortly after shaking Luke, she witnessed Thomason approach a second special needs student, [REDACTED], who is also non-verbal, and spanked him on his bottom because he was climbing onto a table. It was after the second incident that Carrico said she and Cunningham reported Thomason's actions to Cornwell. With Thomason gone and the incident reported to admin, we assumed that all of the proper protocols had been followed, including the abuse being reported to DCBS.

On February 9, 2024, we withdrew Luke from Central Elementary School following a second negative incident. Prior to my and Luke's departure, I viewed the Parent Contact portion of Luke's records on Infinite Campus and saw that, among other missing documentation, there was no documentation pertaining to the abuse incident from September 26, 2023 including:

- No record of Robertson notifying me by phone of the incident.
- No record of Turner contacting me about the results of the investigation.
- No record of me texting Cornwell, notifying her that Luke and I would be absent on September 27th as advised by our attorney.

I have a picture of what I found on Infinite Campus and will produce it upon request. There was also no documentation of the abuse incident of September 26, 2023 in the copies we received of Luke's school records.

With our 3 children now removed from Central Elementary, and now that I no longer fear retaliation for reporting, my husband Ryan and I began searching for answers to months-long questions we had about the incident so that we could have a sense of closure. We were also made aware that Thomason was, and may still be, employed with Mayfield Independent School District, working with children.

On September 3, 2024 Ryan called the DCBS Frankfort office to verify that the school had reported the incident and to obtain a copy of the investigation report. During that conversation, we learned that the September 26, 2023 incident was never reported to DCBS. As a result, DCBS has opened an investigation (Intake #3908438). This is also why we are filing a complaint with the Department of Education at this time.

5. Provide a proposed resolution of the problem to the extent known and available to you:
To be determined.

YOU MAY INCLUDE COPIES OF ANY RECORDS OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT SUPPORTS YOUR COMPLAINT.

You are required to sign and date this form. Unsigned complaints cannot be accepted.

Signature (required)

Date (required)

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SEND A COPY OF THIS COMPLETED COMPLAINT FORM TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

I certify that I have sent a copy of this complaint form to the
District on (Date required).

School