



Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

April 13, 2021

Kimberly Bode
kbode@nysda.org

Re: FOIL # 20-10-081

Dear Requestor:

This letter is in response to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, FOIL # 20-10-081, you submitted to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) on October 29, 2020. The request was for a copy of the number of terminations of parental rights filings for 2019 and 2020 (through September), with a breakdown by county and month or quarter.

Attached, please find the requested records which OCFS believes to be responsive to your request. There were no pages removed or redactions made to the provided records. Please note, OCFS recognizes this data may be limited and is not necessarily a complete representation of TPR filings state-wide during the requested time frame. The data is pulled from the CONNECTIONS data base system, which is New York State's child welfare system of record; however, the data is entered into CONNECTIONS by local department of social services (LDSS) staff. While CONNECTIONS has the ability for the LDSS staff to enter the legal activity codes for TPR filings, there is no requirement that the legal activity codes be entered before staff can move to other required entries. Additionally, notes are to be entered contemporaneously with activities but not necessarily in real time.

Further, this data differs from the data that was previously sent and included in the September 16th letter from OCFS to the coalition of family advocates, which you attached to your FOIL request. The data in the previous letter captured data from CONNECTIONS related to *completed* TPRs where the petitions had been filed during the selected period. The data being provided in response to this FOIL request reflects information in CONNECTIONS showing the number of unique children with TPR petitions filed during the years requested.

If you conclude that any part of your request has been inappropriately denied or withheld, you have a right to appeal. Such an appeal should be directed in writing within thirty days of the date of this letter to:

Frank Nuara, Esq.
FOIL Appeals Officer
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
52 Washington Street, Room 135 North
Rensselaer, NY 12144-2796

Your FOIL request is now closed. I hope I have been of assistance to you in your request.

Sincerely,

Maribeth Hunt

Maribeth Hunt, Esq.
Records Access Officer

Enc.