



New York State  
Office of  
Children &  
Family  
Services

July 12, 2011

Mr. David Mandel  
Executive Director  
Ohel Children's Home and Family Services  
4510 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11204

Dear Mr. Mandel:

[www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us)

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
*Governor*

**Gladys Carrión, Esq.**  
*Commissioner*

**New York City Regional Office**  
80 Maiden Lane, 24<sup>th</sup> fl.  
New York, NY  
10038

On June 10, 2011 representatives from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) New York City Regional Office's (NYCRO's) Foster Care and Prevention, Program Assessment & Improvement Units conducted an on-site assessment of Ohel's mandated reporter policies and procedures. As part of the methodology, the assessment consisted of ten (10) randomly selected case records including four preventive services cases and six (6) were foster care cases; a review of the agency's policies and procedures around the mandated reporter laws and responsibilities; as well as interviews with the Director of Quality Assurance and the Foster Boarding Home Program Director. The purpose of the review was to assess whether the agency was operating in compliance with the mandated reporter laws as outlined Xctasy's Law; Chapter 513 of the Laws of 2007.

Our findings revealed that the agency has a documented history of reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and/or maltreatment against foster and birth parents. In the reports made by the agency to the State Central Registry (SCR) there was evidence that the agency acted appropriately and measures were taken to protect the children named in the report. Protective measures included but were not limited to removing the child/children from the foster home where the alleged incidents of child abuse/maltreatment were believed to have taken; restricting contact between the child/children and the subject of the report in the foster care and preventive services cases reviewed.

After completing a thorough review of the agency's policies and procedures relative to the mandated reporting process, the Office contacted the agency on June 17, 2011 and requested that the policies and procedures be updated to incorporate requirements outlined in the July 1, 2008 Memorandum issued by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). The policies and procedures were amended and copies were sent to OCFS for review on June 17, 2011. At this time, there are no additional required actions or recommendations to the agency.



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On behalf of representatives from the Foster Care and Preventive, Program Assessment and Improvement Units, we would like take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the courtesy and cooperation extended throughout the review. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Grant Gong at (212) 383-1794.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Markette Harris".

Markette Harris  
Deputy Regional Director  
Permanency and Domestic Violence Services  
New York City Regional Office  
Office of Children and Family Services  
212-383-1808  
[Markette.Harris@ocfs.state.ny.us](mailto:Markette.Harris@ocfs.state.ny.us)

cc: Daryl Dyer, Director ACS APA



August 12, 2011

**New York State  
Office of  
Children &  
Family  
Services**

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Mr. David Mandel  
Executive Director  
Ohel Children's Home and Family Services  
4510 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
New York, New York 11204

Dear Mr. Mandel:

This letter is a follow up to the July 12, 2011 letter to you regarding the findings of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) New York City Regional Office (NYCRO) June 10, 2011, on-site review of the Ohel Children's Home and Family Services mandated reporter policies and practices. This review was initiated as a result of questions raised in the Jewish Week article regarding the agency's alleged lack of reporting of suspected child abuse cases. Staff from this office interviewed the Director of Quality Improvement, obtained copies of the agency's mandated reporter policies and procedures, reviewed all SCR reports made by the agency during 2008 - 2011, and reviewed 10 case records (6 - foster care and 4 - preventive cases) that included the service case cited in the Jewish Week article.

Our finding determined that the agency acted appropriately in all the cases reviewed. The agency has a documented history of reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and/or maltreatment against foster and birth parents. However, we asked you to amend your current mandated reporter policy to expand the meaning of the term social services workers and paraprofessional staff as defined by Xctasy's Law; Chapter 513 of the Laws of 2007 and requirements outlined in the July 1, 2008 Memorandum issued by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). The Office of Children and Family Services has reviewed the revisions to the Mandated Reporting policies submitted by the agency and find them to be acceptable.

We again thank you for the courtesy and cooperation extended to us throughout the review.

Sincerely

Markette Harris  
Deputy Regional Director  
Permanency and Domestic Violence Services  
New York City Regional Office  
Office of Children and Family Services  
212-383-1808  
[Markette.Harris@ocfs.state.ny.us](mailto:Markette.Harris@ocfs.state.ny.us)

cc: Daryl Dyer, Director ACS APA



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