

Title: Petition for Improved Group Home, Halfway House, et al. Regulation and Care

Petition Preamble:

This petition is a result of the October 20 murder of Blendon Township resident Jane Juergens, who (while innocently jogging in Ridgewood Park, Huber Ridge Area, Blendon Township) was brutally and savagely stabbed twenty-six times to death by an accused sixteen-year-old named Jordan T. Stewart, assigned to the group home at 5548 Copenhagen Drive in Huber Ridge, Blendon Township.

Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) website states the following:

Franklin County Children Services is governed by an 11-member volunteer board that establishes policy for the agency. The Executive Director is responsible for agency operations. Children Services is regulated by statutory mandates of the state and federal governments and regulations of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The agency is a member of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children (COA). Franklin County Children Services is one of only a few public county children services boards in Ohio and the nation to be accredited. This accreditation means that Children Services meets rigorous national standards regarding quality of services and sound management practices.

We who are signing this petition believe that Franklin County Children Services has failed to meet rigorous national standards regarding quality of sound management practices. They hired Consumer Support Services (CSS), and CSS failed to uphold FCCS's standards. We believe there was a gross neglect of duty, and Jane Juergens has paid for it with her life.

Petition:

We demand that the Franklin County Commissioners ensure strict and diligent oversight of Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) and all of their agencies in regard to Group Homes, Halfway Houses, and the like in Franklin County, Ohio, by:

1. Requiring that all supervisors and caregivers for assigned residents be thoroughly trained, licensed, and properly equipped to care for assigned residents.
This means that at minimum: a) there must be no language or communication barriers. b) there must be improved qualifications for home supervisors including but not limited to background checks, drug testing, and proof of US citizenship.
2. FCCS and each agency must be required to maintain cleanliness and upkeep for assigned residents and the structure.
3. Our courts, FCCS, and agencies must be required to ensure safety for assigned residents and surrounding residents.
 - a) They must not place violent live-in residents and/or those with a police record of any violence in such homes.
 - b) They must provide the chief of police in each location the names and background information of each assigned resident.

We also demand an accounting of how Jordan T. Stewart was placed in the group home located at 5548 Copenhagen Drive, Blendon Township, Westerville, Ohio. We demand that those responsible be held accountable and that there is either a termination or a reassignment of duties for that person or person(s) involved in his placement.

We also demand that FCCS not utilize CSS or any agency that does not comply with these demands.

