

The information Candace Baumgardner supplied from her investigation of this incident is on page 2 of this document. I will be going over all of the fraudulent information to her out right lies and her own contradiction she put in this report. Isn't it amazing how CPS workers twist facts, tell outright lies and contradict themselves to promote their own agenda's?

1. This incident didn't happen on the evening of June 13, 2005, it happened on June 14, 2005 during the day.
2. The incident she is referring to during the evening was something we told Brian Vanderzalm about which happened sometime between the period of May 18 and June 4, 2005. This particular night the children were in bed and Erica called to see if she could visit with her children. She was told no they are in bed. She came over from the apartment anyways and asked if she could lay down with them until they fell a sleep. We seen no harm in that, after all we were told from the very beginning by Dan Morgan, Erica could live with us and her children in our home.
3. Erica was not living in the apartment at this time. She moved back to her house June 10, 2005.
4. We never had any "agreement" with foster care. The only rule we were ever told, no boyfriend contact with the children, which we were informed about on May 18, 2006.
5. This part is an out right lie by Candace, the only agreement that was made during this meeting, if our daughter want to visit her children from now on it has to be supervised at DHS.
6. The children were not 3 and 1 years of age. Lets try 5 and 2 at the time of this investigation. Alyssa could speak really well for her age, Amber had the speech problems
7. How can Candace determine if a child can't tell the difference between the truth and a lie, when she doesn't seem to be able to tell the truth herself? I had to reread this paragraph because that was what I thought she said at first. ☺
8. Candace was told exactly the reason this was happening and it had nothing to do with visitations. Both our daughter and her boyfriend had their criminal cases finished. They didn't get anything as far as punishment. She thinks she will get her children back if she tells enough lies to have these girls removed from our care.
9. I never once admitted I am smoking marijuana. I told Brian I did it in the past when he asked me about it.
10. We were never once supplied with a supervised visit schedule, we never learn our daughter was supposed to have supervised visits until 2 days after this investigation. We did learn sometime later there was a "parent agency agreement" and none of the contents in this "agreement" were ever discussed with us. I will be going over this "agreement" later on.



4. FINDINGS: See Findings on cover sheet. Look below for narrative on A. Previous Complaints and G. Evidence.

A. Previous Complaints Summary:

Barb and Timothy Atwood are the maternal grandparents of Alyssa and Amber Keast. They have no prior history with Children's Protective Services. The minor children had been placed with the Atwood's as a relative placement after being removed of the care of their mother, Erica Keast due to neglect.

Face/face contact was made with Barb Atwood, Timothy Atwood, [REDACTED] Atwood, Alyssa Keast, and Amber Keast on 6/15/05 at the residence of 13613 Thornapple, Grant. The Atwood's welcomed this writer into their home and stated that they had expected a visitor today, as the minor children's mother became upset the evening of 6/13/05 and from past experience with Ms. Keast, they expected trouble. Mr. Atwood stated that Erica became upset after calling to see the children on the evening of 6/13/05 and being told that it wasn't a good time (it was bedtime). It was reported that Erica is also upset because her boyfriend, Richard is not supposed to see the children. Erica was insistent on seeing the children and the Atwood's stated that they gave in and allowed contact. Erica came over to the Atwood's from her apartment, which is located in an area of the garage. Erica was upset which also upset the minor children. Reportedly, Amber began to throw a fit and Mr. Atwood told her to go to the corner. Amber did not do as her grandfather had asked and Ms. Atwood went over and picked her up and put her in the corner. Erica's behavior was so out of control according to the Atwoods that they decided it best that Erica return to the home of her boyfriend and not live in the apartment on their property. She left the residence and went to the trailer where she is currently residing with Richard when Children's Protective Services became involved. He reports that the children's behavior becomes out of control when Erica is around and they had been allowing liberal visitation with their mother. The Atwood's even admit to allowing Erica to take the children over to the trailer to watch movies and go swimming unsupervised which was in violation of the agreement with foster care. Because of the trouble that the Atwoods feel that Erica is causing, they now state that they will follow the rules set forth by Brian Vanderzalm, Department of Human Services.

The 19-year-old that was referred to in the referral is the Atwood's son. Their son, [REDACTED] Atwood, denies physically disciplining the children. He reports that the children have always been around him and his parents and that he is not responsible for their care and/or maintenance. [REDACTED] reports that he has always lived in the home of his parents and was residing in the home when the home study was approved to allow the Atwoods to have the children reside with them.

An attempt was made to interview Alyssa and Amber Keast using the forensic interview protocol. This writer was unable to ascertain if either minor child could distinguish between a truth and a lie. Both minor children are young, ages 3 and 1. Alyssa, especially, appears to be behind with regard to speech. Neither child appeared to remember the incident, which resulted in involvement with Children's Protective Services. While at the home, the children interacted well with the grandparents. Again, besides the current concern of possible physical abuse, there is concern that the Atwood's were not following the guidelines set forth by the Newaygo County Department of Human Services. Based on Mr. Atwood's admission to illegal usage of marijuana and their admission to allowing unsupervised visits with Erica, the children will be moved to another relative care placement.

5. CONCLUSION: CATEGORY IV. No Preponderance

Physical abuse of Amber Keast by her grandmother, Barb Atwood, is not supported by preponderance of evidence. It could not be proved if the allegations of physical abuse were true or if Erica, the children's mother, was attempting to retaliate against her parents because of their unwillingness to allow her liberal, unsupervised visits. In any case, Mr. Atwood admits to marijuana usage as well as not following the supervised visit schedule set up by the foster care worker. Based on the latest concerns, the minor children will be removed from the Atwood home placed with their Uncle and Aunt, [REDACTED]