



December 17, 2019

Monica Medford
Tree House Academy of Fernandina Beach
2120 Will Hardee Rd.
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034-7962

Dear Ms. Medford,

This letter serves to document the findings of the Coalition Review Committee convened to review the decision to terminate Tree House Academy's School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-K contracts as well as the revocation of Tree House Academy's eligibility to offer these programs for five years from the original termination date of November 7, 2019.

As a side note, in the hearing your Qualified Representative, Ronald McGuckin, stated that the original termination letter did not go to you but to Sindy Perry. It was explained that this is because Sindy Perry is the signatory on your contracts with the ELC. This letter is addressed to you since you have indicated that you are the owner and we are copying Ronald McGuckin and Sindy Perry.

Your dispute concerning the termination of your contracts as stated in Ronald McGuckin's letter dated November 14th and stated by him in the hearing today was due to a final determination not having been made by Florida's Department of Children's and Families (DCF) at a hearing you have requested of them concerning a Class 1 violation your program received on November 5, 2019. Your dispute contends that the ELC's decision to terminate your contracts was in error because you believe that the ELC should wait until DCF has made their final determination. The ELC Hearing Committee voted unanimously to uphold the terminations and revocations. The reason for this decision is that while this was considered an emergency termination due to children's health and safety being endangered by numerous Class 1 violations, the terms of your probation would have required termination for cause for any DCF violations. Your program was placed on probation as of 7/29/2018 as a result of other DCF violations including a Class 1 violation due to leaving unscreened individuals with children. The letter you received on 7/29/2019 placing your program on probation made clear that while on probation, further violations would lead to contract termination.

Page 2 of the letter you received from the ELC dated 11/7/2019 states these reasons for the termination and revocation of your contracts. Since being placed on probation, your program has received numerous violations, some of which are not eligible to be reviewed by DCF since the time to do so has expired. Therefore, the results of a future DCF hearing to reconsider the 11/5/19 Class 1 violation would not change the results of this termination.

Taken as a whole, the violation of the probationary terms as well as the total number of DCF violations, three of which were Class 1 violations, reserved for the most serious violations of health and safety rules, caused the Coalition Review Committee to conclude that to protect the health and safety of the children receiving School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-K services, it is necessary to terminate your contracts and revoke your eligibility to offer these programs.

Sincerely

Dawn Bell

Dawn Bell
2450 Old Moultrie Rd.
Suite 10
St. Augustine, FL 32086

cc: Sindy Perry
Ronald V. McGuckin, JD