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Children's Services offers cooperation to law enforcement in alleged abuse case in Bethel

Retrieval of archived records being expedited

ANCHORAGE — The Department of Health and Social Services and Office of Children's Services join with all Alaskans in shock and sadness regarding recent charges of child sexual abuse against a former foster parent in Bethel.

The man in question, Peter Tony, was a licensed foster parent more than 10 years ago. The hard copy records related to this case were archived long ago, before the agency moved to a new electronic case management system. Therefore, those records are not immediately available. As soon as any records are retrieved, the department will do everything within its authority to assist in the criminal investigation and support impacted families.

The department and OCS are committed to assist and cooperate with law enforcement to determine the facts and reach a lawful and just resolution in this case.

OCS' highest priority is the protection of vulnerable children, in keeping with the department priority of protecting vulnerable Alaskans. The trust that is alleged to have been broken by someone who was supposed to care for children in the child welfare system is tragic.

“This alleged act is devastating and cuts deeply for all of us at OCS, as well as our many partners working to serve children in need around the state,” OCS Director Christy Lawton said. “We take this personally and will work to ensure that justice is served.”

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