



**Jeff Ekena**  
Regional Superintendent  
[jekena@roe53.net](mailto:jekena@roe53.net)

**Jon Smith**  
Assistant Regional Superintendent  
[jonsmith@roe53.net](mailto:jonsmith@roe53.net)

**FOIA Request date: October 24, 2023**

[mparker@capitolnewsillinois.com](mailto:mparker@capitolnewsillinois.com)  
[bhundsorfer@capitolnewsillinois.com](mailto:bhundsorfer@capitolnewsillinois.com)

**Request #1:**

**FOIA REQUEST:**

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) Capitol News Illinois respectfully requests access to:

- All Educational Neglect Form(s) received by your office from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services from Jan. 1, 2018, to date. We understand that identifying information of youth may be redacted.
- Any records created by your office in the course of conducting an investigation into educational neglect in response to these forms received from DCFS.

We are representatives of the news media employed by Capitol News Illinois, a nonprofit news service dedicated to coverage of state government affairs, and we are requesting this information in that capacity for noncommercial purposes. Our intention is to use these public records to inform our research about what happens when students drop out of or never enroll into the public school system and may not be receiving an education at home or in a private school.

We would respectfully request that you provide these records electronically, via email, and waive any duplication fees associated with it.

We believe that all of the information that we have requested is subject to public disclosure pursuant the FOIA. However, if you decide to withhold all or part of the information requested, please send us a detailed statement of the reasons for this denial along with references to the specific exemptions of the FOIA you are claiming for each withheld document.

Because I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate a response to my request within 5 working days as required by the Act.



**Jeff Ekena**  
Regional Superintendent  
[jekena@roe53.net](mailto:jekena@roe53.net)

**Jon Smith**  
Assistant Regional Superintendent  
[jonsmith@roe53.net](mailto:jonsmith@roe53.net)

**Response to Request #1:**

Your request has been granted; please see embedded supporting documentation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JEK".

Jeffrey Ekena  
Regional Office of Education, #53, serving Mason, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties



Jeff Ekena &lt;jekena@roe53.net&gt;

---

**FOIA request, Capitol News Illinois**

1 message

**Molly Parker** <mparker@capitolnewsillinois.com>  
To: "jekena@roe53.net" <jekena@roe53.net>  
Cc: Beth Hundsdorfer <bhundsdorfer@capitolnewsillinois.com>

Tue, Oct 24, 2023 at 2:40 PM

Dear ROE Superintendent **Jeff Ekena**

As you are aware, Capitol News Illinois is working on a story about educational neglect in Illinois. To inform our research, we are seeking public documents maintained by your office. **Our FOIA request** is below. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any clarifying questions about the documents we are seeking. Molly can be reached at 618/305-9125 or Beth at 618/670-7592.

**FOIA REQUEST:**

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) Capitol News Illinois respectfully requests access to:

- All Educational Neglect Form(s) received by your office from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services from Jan. 1, 2018, to date. We understand that identifying information of youth may be redacted.
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We would respectfully request that you provide these records electronically, via email, and waive any duplication fees associated with it.

We believe that all of the information that we have requested is subject to public disclosure pursuant the FOIA. However, if you decide to withhold all or part of the information requested, please send us a detailed statement of the reasons for this denial along with references to the specific exemptions of the FOIA you are claiming for each withheld document.

Because I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate a response to my request within 5 working days as required by the Act.

Sincerely,

Molly Parker & Beth Hundsdorfer

Reporters

Capitol News Illinois



JB Pritzker  
Governor



Marc D. Smith  
Director

October 18, 2021

Jeff Ekena  
Regional Superintendent  
414 Court Street  
Pekin, IL 61554

RE: Educational Neglect Report

Dear Jeff Ekena:

The State Central Register has been notified that the children referenced on the attached form do not appear to be attending school and possibly are not even registered. Since it is no longer the responsibility of the Department of Children and Family Services to pursue such issues we wanted to share this information with you so that appropriate personnel could be assigned to follow up on the information that we have been given. A copy of the "Educational Neglect Report" form completed by our staff is enclosed. We have no further information available on this matter than is contained on the enclosed form.

This notice is for your information and pursuit only. No response to this office is required.

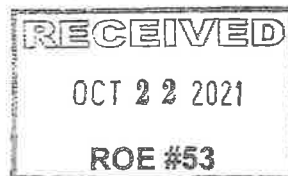
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tierney C. Stutz".

Tierney C. Stutz  
Acting Administrator  
State Central Register

Enclosure

TS/mk/24



State Central Register  
406 E. Monroe Street, Sta. 30 • Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-785-4010  
[www2.illinois.gov/DCFS](http://www2.illinois.gov/DCFS)

# EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT REPORTING FORM

<b>CASE NAME</b> [REDACTED]	<b>DATE</b> 10/15/21	<b>TIME</b> 0942 AM/PM	<b>REGION/FIELD</b> 1 B 12	<b>NARRATIVE</b> Reporter advised the children are not currently enrolled in school.
<b>CARETAKERS</b>	<b>SUBJECT NAMES</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>AGE/DOB</b>	<b>HOME ADDRESS</b>
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>SUBJECT NAMES</b>	<b>SEX</b>	<b>AGE/DOB</b>	<b>SCHOOL NAME &amp; ADDRESS (if known)</b>
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**RECEIVED**  
 OCT 22 2021  
 RCE #53

SCR WORKER Robert S.



Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>

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## DCFS letter


2 messages

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**Jeff Ekena** <jekena@roe53.net>  
To: Jay Wallace <jwallace@roe53.net>, Kerry Lapp <klapp@roe53.net>

Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 1:51 PM

Please see attached, not sure it belongs to.

 **1412\_001.pdf**  
107K

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**Kerry Lapp** <klapp@roe53.net>  
To: Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>  
Cc: Jay Wallace <jwallace@roe53.net>

Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 2:37 PM

Not sure either as there is no address. The age would be mine if it's [REDACTED] I can contact them to see what they know.  
Without an address there's not much to go on. Thanks for forwarding.

~Kerry

[Quoted text hidden]

JB Pritzker  
Governor



Marc D. Smith  
Director

---

January 28, 2022

Jeff Ekena  
Regional Superintendent  
414 Court Street  
Pekin, IL 61554

RE: Educational Neglect Report

Dear Jeff Ekena:

The State Central Register has been notified that the children referenced on the attached form do not appear to be attending school and possibly are not even registered. Since it is no longer the responsibility of the Department of Children and Family Services to pursue such issues we wanted to share this information with you so that appropriate personnel could be assigned to follow up on the information that we have been given. A copy of the "Educational Neglect Report" form completed by our staff is enclosed. We have no further information available on this matter than is contained on the enclosed form.

This notice is for your information and pursuit only. No response to this office is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tierney C. Stutz".

Tierney C. Stutz  
Acting Administrator  
State Central Register

Enclosure

TS/mk/24



State Central Register  
406 E. Monroe Street, Sta. 30 • Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-785-4010  
[www2.illinois.gov/DCFS](http://www2.illinois.gov/DCFS)



EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT REPORTING FORM

CASE NAME	DATE	TIME 4:00 p.m. AM/PM	REGION/FIELD		NARRATIVE
			DATE	TIME	
CARETAKERS	1.27.22	4:00 p.m. AM/PM		Peoria County	<p>Today, Reporter met with [redacted] who recently became a father. [redacted] grandmother and Guardian, [redacted] knows that [redacted] is spending nights at the birth mother's apartment and that [redacted] and birth mother are having sex. [redacted] told [redacted] to grab some of his things and go to the birth mother's home. [redacted] has been suspended from two schools and [redacted] missed school today because [redacted] says that he has been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and [redacted] is now asymptomatic with stuffy nose, difficulty breathing, throwing up, coughing and body aches. [redacted] doesn't have a fever. [redacted] is still allowing [redacted] to go over and see [redacted] baby with these symptoms. [redacted] does have a congenital heart condition. [redacted] was supposed to go and have [redacted] tested for COVID-19 today. [redacted] is in criminal and legal trouble for truancy issues with Unknown B (per SAWIS, [redacted] was not at school today. Also in the home is [redacted] son, Unknown A (per SACWIS, [redacted], who has anger issues and almost got into a physical altercation with a neighbor today while Reporter was at the home. [redacted] refused Reporter entrance to the apartment and [redacted] was nervous about providing information to Reporter. From the doorway, home smelled like burned food. [redacted] biological father is not involved. [redacted] daughter, [redacted] biological mother, passed away six years ago. [redacted] stepfather has had no contact for three years. [redacted] having angry outbursts at school and punched a wall in the school when another student made [redacted] angry. This family has criminal, DCFS and law enforcement history. [redacted] spouse passed away three years ago. WORKER SAFETY CONCERN: DOG/COVID-19 SYMPTOMS *****EDUCATIONAL REFERRAL COMPLETED*****</p>
	CHILDREN				

SCR WORKER SB



Jeff Ekena &lt;jekena@roe53.net&gt;


**DCFS letter**

4 messages

Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>  
To: Kerry Lapp <klapp@roe53.net>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 8:37 AM

Not sure if this is part of a case you are working on.

 **1807\_001.pdf**  
125K

Kerry Lapp <klapp@roe53.net>  
To: Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 8:55 AM

Yes it is. Minger is currently filed case re: [REDACTED] will be next. Minger already told [REDACTED] this. Interestingly, [REDACTED] momma has also been referred by [REDACTED] along with her brother [REDACTED].. which are cousins to a brother/sister that Minger took care of a couple of years ago. The dysfunction runs so deep. I'm not familiar with part of the DCFS report...do you get the impression that DCFS is involved in the other portions of this case (the non-educational parts)?

Thanks for forwarding. I will be in touch with Minger.

~Kerry

[Quoted text hidden]

--

*Kerry Lapp*  
Truancy Case Manager  
ROE #53

Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>  
To: Kerry Lapp <klapp@roe53.net>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Of the letters we have received in the past, I get the impression DCFS focuses on everything but the education parts.

[Quoted text hidden]

Kerry Lapp <klapp@roe53.net>  
To: Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>

Fri, Feb 4, 2022 at 9:02 AM

Got it. Thanks.

[Quoted text hidden]

JB Pritzker  
Governor



Marc D. Smith  
Director

September 15, 2022

Jeff Ekena  
Regional Superintendent  
414 Court Street  
Pekin, IL 61554

RE: Educational Neglect Report

Dear Jeff Ekena:

The State Central Register has been notified that the children referenced on the attached form do not appear to be attending school and possibly are not even registered. Since it is no longer the responsibility of the Department of Children and Family Services to pursue such issues we wanted to share this information with you so that appropriate personnel could be assigned to follow up on the information that we have been given. A copy of the "Educational Neglect Report" form completed by our staff is enclosed. We have no further information available on this matter than is contained on the enclosed form.

This notice is for your information and pursuit only. No response to this office is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tamela S. Atwood".

Tamela S. Atwood  
Deputy Director  
State Central Register

Enclosure

TA/mk/24



State Central Register  
406 E. Monroe Street, Sta. 30 • Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-785-4010  
[www2.illinois.gov/DCFS](http://www2.illinois.gov/DCFS)

# EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT REPORTING FORM

<b>CASE NAME</b> [REDACTED]	<b>DATE</b> 9/14/22	<b>TIME</b> 10:21 PM	<b>REGION/FIELD</b> 1B 12
<b>CARETAKERS</b>	<b>SUBJECT NAMES</b> [REDACTED]	<b>SEX</b> [REDACTED]	<b>AGE/ DOB</b> [REDACTED]
	<b>HOME ADDRESS</b> [REDACTED]		
<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>SCHOOL NAME &amp; ADDRESS (if Known)</b> [REDACTED]		
	<b>NARRATIVE</b> Reporter states that the home is a disaster, there are rooms that have food piled up high, and the food is moldy, along with food wrappers, etc. Reporter states that [REDACTED] works second shift and sleeps all day. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are not in school and haven't been in school for two years now. [REDACTED] will also leave them home alone, and they do not have a phone, every once in a while they will have an internet phone. [REDACTED] has severe asthma and was hospitalized for his asthma about a month or so ago. [REDACTED] also has several allergies including eggs, milk, and peanuts, and the children are left to feed themselves. [REDACTED] had part of his intestines taken out when he was a baby. It's unknown who watches the children when [REDACTED] works now. [REDACTED] is on suboxone and Adderall and she runs out of her medication a lot. She has a history of abusing Vicodin, using crack, and using another drug that reporter cannot recall. [REDACTED] told reporter that she had a daughter that died from being pushed down the stairs, but reporter doesn't have details. [REDACTED] was arrested for theft before.		
<b>SCR WORKER</b> Jessica Heidenreich			



Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>

**Attached Image**

3 messages

**350if** <scan@roe53.net>  
To: Jeff Ekena <Jekena@roe53.net>

Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 8:50 AM

**3091\_001.pdf**  
109K

**Jeff Ekena** <jekena@roe53.net>  
To: Jay Wallace <jwallace@roe53.net>, Kerry Lapp <klapp@roe53.net>

Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 9:48 AM

DCFS, not sure if you have this person on your case load or not.

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **350if** <scan@roe53.net>  
Date: Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 8:53 AM  
Subject: Attached Image  
To: Jeff Ekena <Jekena@roe53.net>

**3091\_001.pdf**  
109K

**Kerry Lapp** <klapp@roe53.net>  
To: Jeff Ekena <jekena@roe53.net>  
Cc: Jay Wallace <jwallace@roe53.net>

Thu, Sep 22, 2022 at 9:59 AM

Good morning to you both... these students were on my caseload historically for years thru [REDACTED] was the case that Asst. State's Attorney took (like our 1st or 2nd year) to judge but she didn't apparently have the info she needed??? This was the one that set her off against taking cases. However, I was never contacted to be a part of the case she presented to the judge.

With that said, do you know if any of the other allegations reported on this are founded or being investigated? Seems to me there is much more neglect going on besides the Educational Neglect, which is the historical pattern of this family.

My frustration with this is that even when I get the State's Attorney to take these cases in Woodford, DCFS doesn't want to do anything with them & he has to fight with them to do their jobs.

I'm happy to help Jay with this family & tag team to come up with a plan... but would require lots of info gathering of all attendance records from [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] as well as meeting with [REDACTED] to see if/what is currently going on & probably presenting an in person case to the Asst. State's Attorney. This family will NOT make any changes with regular interventions.

Let me know your thoughts.  
~Kerry

[Quoted text hidden]

*Kerry Lapp*  
Truancy Case Manager

JB Pritzker  
Governor



Marc D. Smith  
Director

February 23, 2022

Jeff Ekena  
Regional Superintendent  
414 Court Street  
Pekin, IL 61554

RE: Educational Neglect Report

Dear Jeff Ekena:

The State Central Register has been notified that the children referenced on the attached form do not appear to be attending school and possibly are not even registered. Since it is no longer the responsibility of the Department of Children and Family Services to pursue such issues we wanted to share this information with you so that appropriate personnel could be assigned to follow up on the information that we have been given. A copy of the "Educational Neglect Report" form completed by our staff is enclosed. We have no further information available on this matter than is contained on the enclosed form.

This notice is for your information and pursuit only. No response to this office is required.

Sincerely,

Tierney C. Stutz  
Acting Administrator  
State Central Register

Enclosure

TS/aw/24



State Central Register  
406 E. Monroe Street, Sta. 30 • Springfield, Illinois 62701  
217-785-4010  
[www2.illinois.gov/DCFS](http://www2.illinois.gov/DCFS)

# EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT REPORTING FORM

CASE NAME ██████████	DATE 2/18/22	TIME 1800	REGION/FIELD 1B	NARRATIVE																																																																																
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Jeff Ekena &lt;jekena@roe53.net&gt;

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**DCFS letter**

4 messages

**Jeff Ekena** <jekena@roe53.net>

Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 11:07 AM

To: Jay Wallace &lt;jwallace@roe53.net&gt;, Kerry Lapp &lt;klapp@roe53.net&gt;

Not sure if these individuals are on you case loads.

**DCFS.pdf**  
113K

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**Jermaine Wallace** <jwallace@roe53.net>

Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 11:32 AM

To: Jeff Ekena &lt;jekena@roe53.net&gt;

Cc: Kerry Lapp &lt;klapp@roe53.net&gt;

Not mine..

On Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 11:07 AM Jeff Ekena &lt;jekena@roe53.net&gt; wrote:

Not sure if these individuals are on you case loads.

--

**Jay Wallace**

Truancy Case Manager/Homeless Education Coordinator.

Mason-Tazewell ROE #53

Office: (309) 477-2290

Cell: (309) 296-1982

**Confidentiality Notice:**

This message and any attachments may contain confidential and privileged information protected by law. The information contained herein is transmitted for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient or designated agent of the recipient of such information, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, copying or retention of this email or the information contained herein is strictly prohibited and may subject you to penalties under federal and/or state law. If you received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete this email. We may monitor email to and from our network.

---

**Kerry Lapp** <klapp@roe53.net>

Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 11:35 AM

To: Jeff Ekena &lt;jekena@roe53.net&gt;

Cc: Jay Wallace &lt;jwallace@roe53.net&gt;

Not on my caseload even though in my county.

On Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 11:07 AM Jeff Ekena &lt;jekena@roe53.net&gt; wrote: