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Kathy

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February 4, 2011

I am the grandmother to my grandson, age 8 years old. My grandson lived with me since birth with erratic visitation by his mother.

This year, my grandson was placed in the custody of his mother. Since being placed with his mother, he has run away several times from his mother. He has stated that he does not want to live with his mother.

My grandson was an A student but is now failing in school.

I was told that being a grandparent, I had no rights to adopt or even apply for custody of my grandson.

Grandparents, when they have had significant contact with their grandchildren, should be allowed rights to their grandchildren. This is definitely in the best interests of the children.

Thank you.

Beverly Barker
785-505-1768

Senate Judiciary

2-7-11

Attachment 12