



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

## Gallivan Calls On OCFS To Investigate Death of Abdifatah Mohamud

PATRICK M. GALLIVAN April 30, 2012

| ISSUE: **FAMILIES, CHILDREN, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, YOUTH**

<b>COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS</b> AGRICULTURE BANKS CODES CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTIONS CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS & RECREATION ELECTIONS HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LABOR SOCIAL SERVICES	<b>STATE OF NEW YORK</b>  <b>PATRICK M. GALLIVAN</b> Senator, 59th District	<b>LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING</b> ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 PHONE: (518) 455-3471 FAX: (518) 426-6949 <b>DISTRICT OFFICE:</b> 4729 TRANSIT ROAD, SUITE 7 DEPEW, NY 14043 PHONE: (716) 656-8544 FAX: (716) 656-8961 <b>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</b> GALLIVAN@NYSenate.GOV <b>WEB SITE:</b> GALLIVAN.NYSenate.GOV
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April 26, 2012

Ms. Gladys Carrion  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Child & Family Services  
Capital View Office Park  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, New York 12144-2834

Dear Commissioner Carrion:

As I am sure you are aware, a 10-year-old boy from Buffalo, New York, Abdifatah Mohamud, was brutally killed earlier this month after being beaten over 60 times with a rolling pin by his step-father.

### *Senator Calls Pattern of Abuse “Troubling”*

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R,C,I – 59th District), Chairman of the New York State Senate Social Services Committee, called on the commissioner of the New York State Office of Child and Family Services, Gladys Carrion, to use the full authority of her office to conduct an investigation into the events surrounding 10-year-old Abdifatah Mohamud’s beating death at

the hands of his stepfather earlier this month in their family home in Buffalo.

“There is a pattern of abuse and dysfunction that this young boy was subjected to that can be traced back to at least 2009, including numerous incidents where local police were called to the home to investigate claims of domestic abuse,” Gallivan said.

Confidentiality laws shield many Child Protective Services’ records from public or governmental review, making it difficult to determine exactly where the system failed and what can be done to prevent a future incident of this nature from occurring.

“A full review will provide insight into why this happened, if and how it could have been prevented, if a an appropriate investigation took place, and which, if any reforms can be made to ensure that it never happens again,” the Senator said.

Gallivan also noted he is open to conducting a joint Senate Social Services Committee / Senate Children and Families Committee hearing once the investigation by of the Office of Child and Family Services is complete.

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Letter to OCFS Attached