

TO: Robert Toporek  
Team Children

DATE: 12/4/2019

FROM:

SUBJECT: Laptop for Grandson

I am asking for help obtaining a computer for my grandson to use for schoolwork and to help me complete applications, as they cannot be done on cell phones or tablets. The reason I have custody of my grandson is due to the opioid epidemic. His parents are both abusers of heroin and whatever they can get their hands on. They abandoned him at 10 months old. He has been in my care since before that time as I provided daycare while they supposedly worked. They have refused to sign over custody and I have had a 6 year battle with multiple lawyers in the courts. I could not get him in school because I did not have legal custody of him, only physical. Finally I succeeded gaining custody and enrolled him in October this year. He will be 8 in December! That is how long it has taken. Needless to say, he is way behind. He is also dyslexic with both letters and numbers. A computer would greatly improve his chances of catching up on his education. He is very bright and his teachers do not think he will have to repeat 1<sup>st</sup> grade. He is acclimating well and has made huge strides forward in just one month. I am willing to do whatever it takes to help him. He is, understandably, overwhelmed at times. He soldiers on and loves learning. I am very proud of him. He recently got to see his mother at Thanksgiving for the first time in over two years. He did not recognize her. She is currently in a recovery house after completing a jail sentence and rehab. His father is in state prison for using, selling and manufacturing drugs. His comment to my attorney was that he would do nothing to help "that bitch" (me) and "he doesn't give a f\*\*\* if his son was in school or not." Neither one has ever contributed to his care ever, financially or in any other way. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.