



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ronald Haley Jr., Esq. (225) 663-8869. rhaley@ronaldhaleylawfirm.com

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The Department of Children and Family Services has failed in its most fundamental, basic, and necessary duty: ensuring toddlers’ do not die from known situations of appalling neglect. The Law Offices of Haley & Associates, the Murell Law Firm, and the Claiborne Firm have been retained by one of the families of the children who have unimaginably suffered and died because of the reckless, gross negligence by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. It is ironic that the word “children” appears first in this department’s namesake because the children this agency is supposed to “protect” are ignored, dismissed, and now have had their lives taken due to the department’s deliberate indifference and inaction. In truth, saying the system failed the children it is supposed to protect does not even begin to describe these tragedies, each of which could have been doubtlessly prevented if this agency functioned as it should. As a community, we must demand that those responsible be held morally and legally accountable.

On August 3, 2022, the awful truth about the fate of 2-year-old Mitchell Robinson was learned: he died from an overdose from the drug fentanyl. Mitchell was not prescribed this medicine—no child his age ever would be. Instead, the toddler found the pill in the house where he lived—a place that DCFS was law and duty-bound to visit and inspect. It was DCFS’ job to protect this child and make sure he was not in danger. What we all learned next though is simply unbelievable: DCFS was notified of 2 prior overdoses by this innocent child and yet, this child was not removed from his mother’s custody. Our offices have recently learned that the paternal grandmother of Mitchell filed a separate report of drug abuse by the child’s mother in 2021. In spite of these explicit, undeniable bright red flags upon which any reasonable, responsible



agency would immediately act, DCFS declined to intervene. It left Mitchell at the house where he found the illegal drugs that finally killed him after he barely survived twice before.

Despite the abject failure of another state agency, the Governor has doubled down in support of them—just as he did with the Louisiana State Police in the face of the scandals permeating the LSP. The Governor now seeks to incarcerate juveniles at an adult prison—making these kids live on the former Louisiana Death Row. Our State has passed a full ban on abortion—yet, the very department charged with protecting these newborns and children is an abject failure.

Our firms pledge to sue the state and those responsible for the death of Mitchell, as well as demand full transparency and accountability by DCFS. Please join us for a press conference Wednesday August 10th (10:00 am) at the law offices of Haley & Associates, 8211 Goodwood Blvd Suite E, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.