

April 10, 1972

Dear Adrienne James:

My name is Mrs. [REDACTED] and I have a son who is at Wayne County Child Development Center, who has been there altogether 1½ years. At this time, I have seen burns on his skin, bruises on his arms and legs, infection in his toes, also he was hit in the head with a coke bottle by one of the other boys in Cottage 16. He now has a burn on his leg due to abuse from another boy by a radiator. He was probably held by this boy in Cottage 14 for the weekend or week. He was sick a year ago in the Health Clinic and I was never notified by my social worker at that time. My son is in Cottage 16. He also had a real bad burn on his arm when he went out there for the first time. They also told me it was due to a radiator that he burned himself by accident. I don't believe this, how a child could burn himself so bad by accident. Then he told me a boy held him by the radiator. So you see we have a problem, that we can't sit back and wait. I put him out there for help and understanding, not Abuse. I'm not the only parent with this problem. We have to change this cottage with more help and the right kind of help, or else our children will be brought up as morons, that will learn nothing but hate and will never have them home with us, which they would be better off. These are the problems that exist in Cottage 16.

I will never give up trying to help my son and the other's that need us so bad.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Garden City, Michigan 48135

April 11, 1972

Dear Adrienne James,

It has been brought to my attention that you are concerned with the welfare of children in the Wayne County Child Development Center.

Our son is a resident there since 1969. He will be 16 in June. He has never been a delinquent!

He was born brain damaged, subject to grandmal seizures, (which are now controlled through sufficient medication) short attention span and hyperkinetic. We finally realized we could no longer keep him at home due to his behavior as a result of his medical problems.

We placed him there for help, education, counselling, therapy and anything else he would need. So far he is only tutored in the cottage, in the basement with a few other similar boys for a couple hours a day. There isn't any psychiatrist at the center to help him or any of the other children.

There is a shortage of cottage workers and some, we feel, are not capable to be in charge of these children. My son spends most of his time just sitting or in punishment and rarely is allowed to go on any of the outings or activities. He is allowed to come home once a month on a weekend. When he does, he invariably has cuts, burns and scratches on him. Some treated, according to him, and some not. Once he was in the hospital clinic for 1 week for infection in a cut on his leg caused by being kicked by another boy. Many times, he's had little round suspicious burns on him resembling cigarette burns. When we question him, he says "he fell against the radiator." It's very frustrating to us as parents to see what's happening to him.

We placed him there for help not just institutional or penal care. Even if you just read this letter, it would mean a great deal to us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] - Cottage 16)

P.S. When he first came there, he was placed in the "seclusion" room with the door shut because of his behavior. I understand they no longer use this procedure.

[REDACTED]
Roseville, Mich. 48066

April 28, 1972

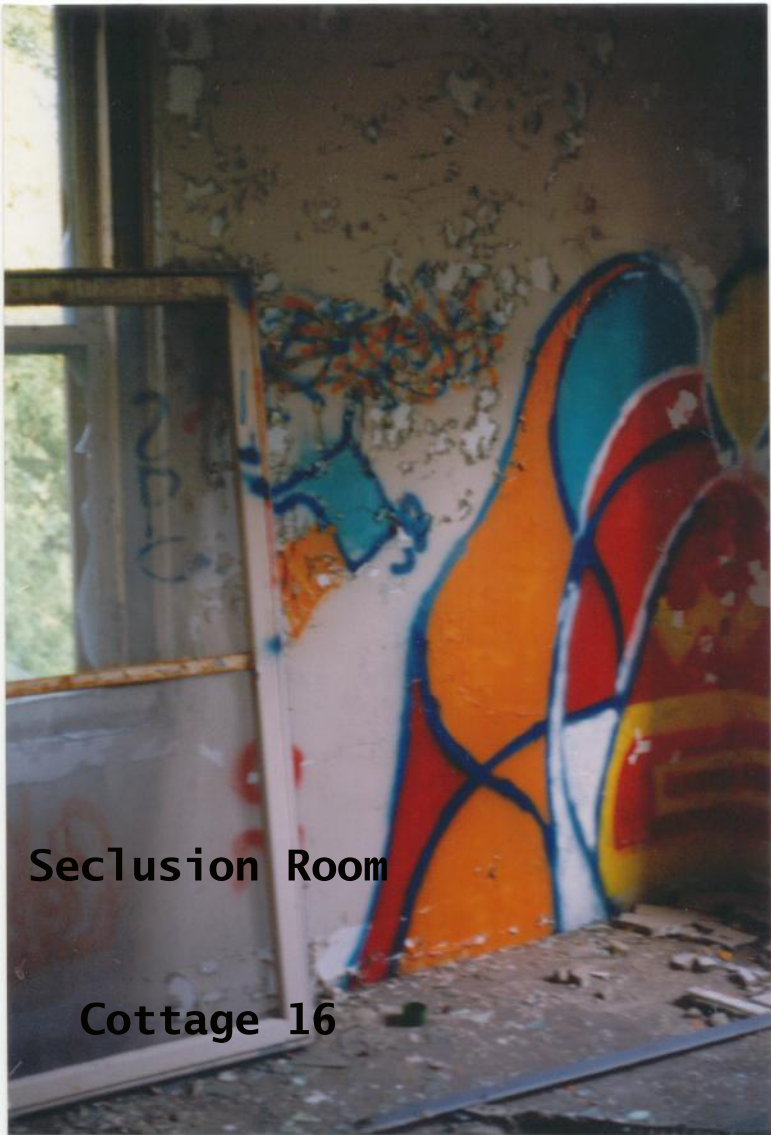
Adrienne James,

I'm writing this letter about my son who is at the child development center and the abuse he has gone through. Joseph is 13 yrs. of age and has come some lumps and bruises. Joe complains that the man who takes care of him causes them. Joe came home for a visit and had a big lump also belt marks on his legs. I asked him how this happened and he told me and his older brother that the person in charge had hit him in the head with a board for not sitting down also he has hit him with a belt buckel for hitting a boy back. Joe is not a retarded child except for behavior and that has improved. But I feel that Joe has had his last beating from a person that has no right in this type a treatment so if you can help me and Joe stop these beatings I know Joe will be greatful as much as my husband and I. Please let me know if there is anything you can do.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Detroit, Michigan [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PS. Joe is in Cottage 16



Seclusion Room

Cottage 16