



NEWS RELEASE

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Children Released by TYC Will Hit CPS Hard

Austin, TX—TYC recently notified Child Protective Services that CPS must find homes for many of the children TYC is releasing. Almost 100 of the children at TYC are in the state's conservatorship (meaning that before the child was committed to TYC, a court removed the child from the parent's custody and gave responsibility to CPS), though we do not have a figure for how many of these are scheduled to be released. TYC is also asking CPS to take children for whom TYC cannot locate parents or whom the parents refuse to pick up. For example, a parent might refuse to pick a child up because they are afraid of the child. Another example, a parent might live in publicly subsidized housing with rules that prohibit residents with felony convictions.

TYC releases will hit CPS hard because these TYC children are hard to place—a child coming out of TYC can't go into just any foster home—and CPS already has a foster care capacity crisis. In February, 42 children spent a combined total of 52 nights sleeping in a state office building. CPS is now putting children up in hotels.

“Governor Perry and the Legislature need to develop a plan to address the CPS foster care capacity crisis, and specifically how to help CPS deal with these TYC youth,” said Scott McCown, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities. McCown also noted that neither the House nor the Senate has budgeted any money to increase the number of foster homes.

Instead, private providers are pushing a plan to “privatize” all foster care, forcing CPS to shut down its foster homes and use only foster homes provided by private companies. At the same time, however, these same companies are refusing to take some CPS children. The House Human Services Committee will hear proposed legislation about privatization of foster care tomorrow.

“This is a federal lawsuit in the making,” McCown said. “The state should not release children from TYC to CPS for whom CPS has no home. These children are the state's responsibility.”

