



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2017

CONTACT: Joseph Turner

(424) 269-4564

Tulare County Asked to Release All Records of Child Abuse Reports Made Against Assemblyman Devon Mathis

Group criticizes stonewalling of public information request by Tulare County Counsel

(Torrance, CA, Nov 13, 2017) – In response to recent revelations that Assemblyman Devon Mathis has been the subject of multiple child abuse and neglect reports at various police departments and government agencies in Tulare County, American Children First is requesting that the County of Tulare release all reports and records where the legislator is the subject of a complaint.

On Friday, Tulare County Counsel notified us via email that any and all records, if they existed, were not subject to disclosure citing Government Code section 827 and Welfare and Institutions Code 6254(k). However, GC 827 seems to apply to “delinquents and wards of the juvenile court” while the other broadly refers to the California Evidence Code without articulating a specific reason.

“It is nonsensical for county counsel to suggest that even disclosing whether or not an individual has been the subject of a child abuse report is forbidden by state law,” stated Joseph Turner, Executive Director for American Children First. “Clearly, the County of Tulare is stonewalling and protecting a powerful politician and that is unacceptable.”

Representatives with the Tulare County District Attorney’s Office discussed matters pertaining to complaints filed against Mathis with a local newspaper. Also, in response to a near identical request, Porterville Police Department provided American Children First a redacted copy of a police report from when Mathis left his young, autistic child unattended in the front yard for at least 45 minutes.

“Protecting children from child abuse and ensuring their abusers are prosecuted should be number one goal of Tulare County,” Turner said. “Not protecting powerful politicians from scrutiny.”

Joseph Turner is the Executive Director of American Children First. Turner can be reached online at <http://AmericanChildrenFirst.org> and <https://facebook.com/AmericanChildrenFirst> or at: (424) 269-4564.