

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF _____ COUNTY, TENNESSEE

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN’S SERVICES)
Petitioner)

Case # _____

IN THE MATTER OF:)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, DOB _____)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, DOB _____)

Children Under 18 Years of Age)

**MOTION TO FIND LACK OF REASONABLE EFFORTS DUE TO
LACK OF ASSIGNED DCS WORKER AND DUE TO LACK OF
COORDINATED VISITATION**

Comes now _____, Attorney for Respondent and mother,
_____ and _____, Attorney for Respondent and father,
_____ and state the following:

1. On the 18th day of April, 2023, the above children were removed from the custody of the parents and placed into foster care.
2. While initially DCS Case Manager, _____, was assigned to assist this family, that individual has since left the position of Case Manager.
3. The minor child, _____, was one month old at the time of removal.
4. During a Child and Family Team meeting held on the 22nd day of May, 2023, the parents reported they had not seen their children since the date of removal (over two months) and were told they would have a four hour visit every other weekend.
5. Since that time (a month and a half ago) there has been only one such visit.
6. This lack of reasonable efforts by the Department is denying the newborn infant his critically important bonding opportunities with his parents.

7. The Preliminary Order entered May 11, 2023, lodged May 1, 2023 for the hearing held on the 26th day of April 2023 sets the Adjudication for June 12, 2023 and also states, “DCS should present the permanency plan for ratification at the Adjudicatory hearing.”

8. This lack of reasonable efforts by the Department is denying the parents the guidance and support they need to re-unify with their children.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, PETITIONER REQUESTS

1 For the reasons stated above, that this Court find that the State of Tennessee, Department of Children’s Services (DCS) has failed to make reasonable efforts on this matter;

2 That this come before the court on the 24th day of July, 2023 for a hearing on this motion;

3 That generous make-up visits be awarded to these parents with DCS paying for any additional cost(s) incurred; and

4 Any and all just and proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Mother

Attorney for Father

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

We, _____ **and** _____ hereby certify that we have this ____ day of July, 2023, hand-delivered, e-mailed and/or deposited in the U.S. Mail, with sufficient postage thereon, a copy of the foregoing Motion addressed to the following:

Assistant General Counsel
Department of Children's Services

Guardian ad Litem

Attorney for Mother

Attorney for Father