



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447

April 15, 2013

Thomas F. Sullivan, Regional Administrator  
Administration for Children and Families-Region 8  
8999 18th Street  
South Terrace, Suite 499  
Denver, CO 80202

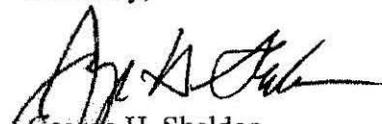
Dear Mr. Sullivan:

I am writing in connection with your "Thirteenth Mandated Report" and reports to the media regarding issues at the Spirit Lake Reservation. Your reports raise matters of grave importance. We take them seriously. Nevertheless, I am concerned that some of your reports, which reflect your own personal views, may be misinterpreted or misreported as those of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) or the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). **This is particularly troubling because, after evaluating your reports, the Department does not share your views that the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the United States Attorney's Office have been derelict in their duties.**

While you remain free to make statements or express your views on such matters in your personal capacity, you should make clear to the recipient or audience that your statement, report, or communication is being made solely in your personal capacity and not in your role as Regional Director or as a representative or spokesperson for ACF or the Department. Likewise, you should not use Agency letterhead or Agency communications systems (e.g., Agency e-mail, phones, faxes, etc.) to communicate your personal views.

We share your concern for the children at the Spirit Lake Reservation. We understand that the BIA Law Enforcement, Ft. Totten, has established a 24-hour hotline for crime reporting at 701-766-4231. We also understand that the BIA Social Services, Ft., Totten, is available during normal business hours at 701-766-2100. We encourage you to report cases of abuse and neglect to them as well as to call 911 for urgent police responses. Your reports should contain as much detail as possible, including time, dates, locations, and witnesses contact information if available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marianne McMullen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs at (202) 401-9216.

Sincerely,

  
George H. Sheldon  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Children and Families