



Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Witness list

39 messages

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 9:56 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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**Witness List RM.docx**

58K

DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 9:57 AM

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Thank you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:03 AM

When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

[Quoted text hidden]



image001.jpg
30K

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:04 AM

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:06 AM

When was this mailed?

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



image001.jpg
30K



image001.jpg
30K

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:07 AM

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:08 AM

Please let me know when you find an answer for me.

Thank you

Ryan

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3 attachments



image001.jpg
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image001.jpg
30K



image001.jpg
30K

DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:12 AM

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:14 AM

Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments



image001.jpg
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image001.jpg
30K



image001.jpg
30K

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:14 AM

Thank you for that information.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

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[Quoted text hidden]

DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:26 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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2 attachments



Michaels Ryan 4A scheduling letter.pdf
285K



SUBREQUESTPFORM.DOC
33K

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:32 AM

On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments



image001.jpg
30K



image001.jpg
30K



image001.jpg
30K

DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM

Cc: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

11 State House Station

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[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:46 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
 rtgmich@gmail.com
 207-216-7955
 215 Long Swamp Road
 Berwick, ME 03901

[Quoted text hidden]

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:54 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process**, **fair notice**, and **transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in

the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

[Quoted text hidden]

DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:05 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Mr. Michaels,

Any questions or issues you wish to raise with regard to your appeal should be directed to the hearing officer during the hearing. At the hearing, the hearing officer will allow you to create a record to properly raise any issues you would like considered by the Commissioner. The hearing officer will then respond in writing as part of his recommended decision. In addition, the hearing officer is also in charge of recording all of your arguments in the event that you appeal further and ask a court to review the Department's action. For all of these reasons, it is important that your issues and concerns are raised at the time of your scheduled hearing.

[Quoted text hidden]

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:14 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my**

appeal been scheduled when it should have been, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 12:57 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:11 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

[Quoted text hidden]

Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:46 PM

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM

To: "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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[Quoted text hidden]

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 23, 2025 at 4:22 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, opega@legislature.maine.gov

Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]



Exhibit A – Email Chain Complaint Response Deadline & Extensions (Sept 20–22, 2025).pdf
204K

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 7:56 AM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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[Quoted text hidden]

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 10:23 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, "ombudsman@cwombudsman.org" <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>;

Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

[Quoted text hidden]



Exhibit A – Email Chain Complaint Response Deadline & Extensions (Sept 20–22, 2025).pdf

204K

DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:15 AM

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

Your request to continue the hearing has been granted. I will send you a separate email with the forms you have requested for subpoenas.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>;
Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
[215 Long Swamp Road](#)
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process, fair notice, and transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

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From: Ryan Michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels

rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House Station](#)

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

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[11 State House](#) Station

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Ryan michael <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 09:57 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>;

Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**

- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months.**

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process, fair notice, and transparency.** As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Ryan Michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

rtgmich@gmail.com

207-216-7955

[215 Long Swamp Road](#)

Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
[11 State House](#) Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

[2 Anthony Avenue](#)

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 09:57 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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SUBREQUESTPFORM.DOC

33K

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:34 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>, "cc: Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I acknowledge receipt of the Department's recent responses and confirm that I accept the continuance that has been granted, and I have received the subpoena forms. I will proceed in good faith to prepare for the rescheduled hearing.

That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.
- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.
- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

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When was this mailed?

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

 **Gmail - Witness list.pdf**

1294K

 **Gmail - FOAA 1400.pdf**

480K

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:43 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Good afternoon,

I am not able to open the Gmail attachment pertaining to the witness list.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:34 PM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

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That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in

this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.

- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.
- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>;

Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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[Augusta, ME 04330](#)

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
[215 Long Swamp Road](#)
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

[2 Anthony Avenue](#)

[Augusta, ME 04330](#)

Phone: 207-624-7917

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process**, **fair notice**, and **transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?

2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

rtgmich@gmail.com

207-216-7955

[215 Long Swamp Road](#)

Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, or an authorized agent of the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy/delete all copies of the original message.

From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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an authorized agent of the intended recipient, please immediately contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy/delete all copies of the original message. Any unauthorized review, use, copying, forwarding, disclosure, or distribution by other than the intended recipient or authorized agent is prohibited.

From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 09:57 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
[11 State House](#) Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
Fax (207) 287-8448
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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:48 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

I am confirming that your hearing date will be rescheduled out beyond October 20, 2025. You will receive a new notice of hearing in the mail as you have previously.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:34 PM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I acknowledge receipt of the Department's recent responses and confirm that I accept the continuance that has been granted, and I have received the subpoena forms. I will proceed in good faith to prepare for the rescheduled hearing.

That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.
- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.
- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>;

Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing

the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
[215 Long Swamp Road](#)
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process**, **fair notice**, and **transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels

rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
[215 Long Swamp Road](#)
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

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[11 State House](#) Station

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

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[Augusta, ME 04330](#)

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 09:57 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
[11 State House Station](#)
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:49 PM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:49 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

I am confirming that your hearing date will be rescheduled out beyond October 20, 2025. You will receive a new notice of hearing in the mail as you have previously.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:34 PM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I acknowledge receipt of the Department's recent responses and confirm that I accept the continuance that has been granted, and I have received the subpoena forms. I will proceed in good faith to prepare for the rescheduled hearing.

That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.
- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.
- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>;
Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
[215 Long Swamp Road](#)
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

[2 Anthony Avenue](#)

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process**, **fair notice**, and **transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
[215 Long Swamp Road](#)
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 09:57 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
[11 State House Station](#)
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
Fax (207) 287-8448
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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 1:03 PM

Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>, DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "opega@legislature.maine.gov" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Confirmation of Continuance & Renewed Request for FOAA Response

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I appreciate the confirmation that my continuance will be scheduled for a date **after October 20, 2025**. That addresses the immediate scheduling concern I raised and ensures I will have access to the Board of Licensing responses in advance of the hearing.

At the same time, I must put on the record that the **substantive concerns raised in my prior emails continue to be disregarded, deferred, or left unanswered**. Today alone, I received multiple replies from both Ms. Enis and DHHS Administrative Hearings — showing that when the Department chooses, it can respond promptly and in succession. Yet in all of these replies, the central context of my communications has not been addressed.

Accordingly, I now restate the singular question that has been at the heart of my FOAA Request No. 1400:

Please provide the written records, communications, or directives that explain why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is not a question to be overlooked. It should never have required a FOAA request in the first place, and the absence of an answer has already caused direct and irreparable harm to me, my family, and likely many other families. I respectfully request that this information be provided by **October 8, 2025** so that I may review it in advance of the rescheduled hearing.

Lastly, to clarify the point raised about the attachment labeled "Witness List": that file was simply a PDF printout of this same email chain for reference — not a separate list of names.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

[Quoted text hidden]

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[Quoted text hidden]

From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 09:57 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House Station](#)

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

[Quoted text hidden]

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>
Cc: "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Thank you for the clarification regarding the witness list. I appreciate it.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:03 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Confirmation of Continuance & Renewed Request for FOAA Response

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I appreciate the confirmation that my continuance will be scheduled for a date **after October 20, 2025**. That addresses the immediate scheduling concern I raised and ensures I will have access to the Board of Licensing responses in advance of the hearing.

At the same time, I must put on the record that the **substantive concerns raised in my prior emails continue to be disregarded, deferred, or left unanswered**. Today alone, I received multiple replies from both Ms. Enis and DHHS Administrative Hearings — showing that when the Department chooses, it can respond promptly and in succession. Yet in all of these replies, the central context of my communications has not been addressed.

Accordingly, I now restate the singular question that has been at the heart of my FOAA Request No. 1400:

Please provide the written records, communications, or directives that explain why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is not a question to be overlooked. It should never have required a FOAA request in the first place, and the absence of an answer has already caused direct and irreparable harm to me, my family, and likely many other families. I respectfully request that this information be provided by **October 8, 2025** so that I may review it in advance of the rescheduled hearing.

Lastly, to clarify the point raised about the attachment labeled "Witness List": that file was simply a PDF printout of this same email chain for reference — not a separate list of names.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:49 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

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From: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:49 PM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

I am confirming that your hearing date will be rescheduled out beyond October 20, 2025. You will receive a new notice of hearing in the mail as you have previously.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
Fax (207) 287-8448
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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:34 PM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>;

Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I acknowledge receipt of the Department's recent responses and confirm that I accept the continuance that has been granted, and I have received the subpoena forms. I will proceed in good faith to prepare for the rescheduled hearing.

That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.
- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.
- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation;
or,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation;
or,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

rtgmich@gmail.com

207-216-7955

[215 Long Swamp Road](#)

Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process, fair notice, and transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When do I owe you my witnesses by? No one has given me any instructions at all.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 09:57 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you.

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
[11 State House Station](#)
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
Fax (207) 287-8448
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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:56 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Witness list

Good morning,

Attached is the witness list for July 1, 2025, hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 1:40 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>, Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: FOAA #1400 – Direct Response Still Required

Ms. Enis,

You have now replied multiple times today, yet each response has evaded my direct question. I will restate it as plainly as possible:

Please provide the records or directives explaining why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is the subject of FOAA Request No. 1400. I expect a clear response by October 8, 2025.

Ryan Michaels

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

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distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, or an authorized agent of the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy/delete all copies of the original message.

From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

[Quoted text hidden]

9 attachments



image001.jpg
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image001.jpg
30K

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 1:42 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

This request is fulfilled through the FOAA coordinator not through this email chain. Please reach out to the coordinator to request a status on your request.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:41 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda

<Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: FOAA #1400 – Direct Response Still Required

Ms. Enis,

You have now replied multiple times today, yet each response has evaded my direct question. I will restate it as plainly as possible:

Please provide the records or directives explaining why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is the subject of FOAA Request No. 1400. I expect a clear response by October 8, 2025.

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025, 13:33 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you for the clarification regarding the witness list. I appreciate it.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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2 Anthony Avenue

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:03 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Confirmation of Continuance & Renewed Request for FOAA Response

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I appreciate the confirmation that my continuance will be scheduled for a date **after October 20, 2025**. That addresses the immediate scheduling concern I raised and ensures I will have access to the Board of Licensing responses in advance of the hearing.

At the same time, I must put on the record that the **substantive concerns raised in my prior emails continue to be disregarded, deferred, or left unanswered**. Today alone, I received multiple replies from both Ms. Enis and DHHS Administrative Hearings — showing that when the Department chooses, it can respond promptly and in succession. Yet in all of these replies, the central context of my communications has not been addressed.

Accordingly, I now restate the singular question that has been at the heart of my FOAA Request No. 1400:

Please provide the written records, communications, or directives that explain why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is not a question to be overlooked. It should never have required a FOAA request in the first place, and the absence of an answer has already caused direct and irreparable harm to me, my family, and likely many other families. I respectfully request that this information be provided by **October 8, 2025** so that I may review it in advance of the rescheduled hearing.

Lastly, to clarify the point raised about the attachment labeled "Witness List": that file was simply a PDF printout of this same email chain for reference — not a separate list of names.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:49 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

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From: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:49 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

I am confirming that your hearing date will be rescheduled out beyond October 20, 2025. You will receive a new notice of hearing in the mail as you have previously.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:34 PM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I acknowledge receipt of the Department's recent responses and confirm that I accept the continuance that has been granted, and I have received the subpoena forms. I will proceed in good faith to prepare for the rescheduled hearing.

That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.
- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.
- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary

witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

[2 Anthony Avenue](#)

[Augusta, ME 04330](#)

[Phone: 207-624-7917](#)

[FAX: 287-5282](#)



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process, fair notice, and transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
 207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?

2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine
Senior Legal Secretary
Division of Administrative Hearings
Department of Health and Human Services
[109 Capitol Street](#)
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
Phone (207) 624-5352
Fax (207) 287-8448
TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

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Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 1:53 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>, "Hammes, Lindsay" <Lindsay.Hammes@maine.gov>, "Levey, Khristin" <Khristin.Levey@maine.gov>, "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, attorney.general@maine.gov, "Office of Governor Janet Mills(imailagent)" <governor@maine.gov>

Subject: FOAA #1400 – Request for Direct Answer

Dear Ms. Enis,

I note your response directing me to the FOAA coordinator. While I understand the technical distinction, it does not change the fact that your office administers Administrative Appeals. It is difficult to accept that the Appeals Unit could not provide something as basic as the directive or record that authorized suspending an entire appeal process regarding alleged child abuse — a decision that denied parents due process and the ability to advocate for their children's safety.

For reference, I have already included **Brenda Kielty** as well as the two DHS officials she herself contacted to participate, as required by law. Their involvement has also gone unanswered, and I will attach that request again here for clarity.

Whether or not you choose to do what is right by providing this very reasonable information — which I have now requested more times than should ever have been necessary — does not change the fact that the truth is already plain. It is clear as day that the Department has not been acting in good faith, but has instead engaged in **stonewalling, manipulation, coercion, and obstruction**, just to name a few.

Therefore, I once more restate my request, on the record:

Please provide the records or directives explaining why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is the subject of FOAA #1400. Transparency, accountability, and the protection of children demand a direct answer.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

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Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM
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Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Good morning,

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[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



Gmail - Formal Complaint_ Non-Compliance with FOAA Request – DHHS FOAA 1400.pdf
127K



Gmail - Michaels_DHHS.pdf
294K

Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 2:36 PM

To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>, "Hammes, Lindsay" <Lindsay.Hammes@maine.gov>, "Levey, Khristin" <Khristin.Levey@maine.gov>, "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, Attorney General <Attorney.General@maine.gov>, Governor <Governor@maine.gov>

Good afternoon,

To clarify, I do not complete the scheduling for the administrative hearings and am not able to speak to your request for information pertaining to your request below.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:54 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Hammes, Lindsay <Lindsay.Hammes@maine.gov>; Levey, Khristin <Khristin.Levey@maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Attorney General <Attorney.General@maine.gov>; Governor <Governor@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: FOAA #1400 – Request for Direct Answer

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Therefore, I once more restate my request, on the record:

Please provide the records or directives explaining why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is the subject of FOAA #1400. Transparency, accountability, and the protection of children demand a direct answer.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 1:42 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

This request is fulfilled through the FOAA coordinator not through this email chain. Please reach out to the coordinator to request a status on your request.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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2 Anthony Avenue

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Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:41 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda

<Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com; Tolentino, Mandie

<Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: FOAA #1400 – Direct Response Still Required

Ms. Enis,

You have now replied multiple times today, yet each response has evaded my direct question. I will restate it as plainly as possible:

Please provide the records or directives explaining why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is the subject of FOAA Request No. 1400. I expect a clear response by October 8, 2025.

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025, 13:33 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you for the clarification regarding the witness list. I appreciate it.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan Michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:03 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Confirmation of Continuance & Renewed Request for FOAA Response

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I appreciate the confirmation that my continuance will be scheduled for a date **after October 20, 2025**. That addresses the immediate scheduling concern I raised and ensures I will have access to the Board of Licensing responses in advance of the hearing.

At the same time, I must put on the record that the **substantive concerns raised in my prior emails continue to be disregarded, deferred, or left unanswered**. Today alone, I received multiple replies from both Ms. Enis and DHHS Administrative Hearings — showing that when the Department chooses, it can respond promptly and in succession. Yet in all of these replies, the central context of my communications has not been addressed.

Accordingly, I now restate the singular question that has been at the heart of my FOAA Request No. 1400:

Please provide the written records, communications, or directives that explain why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is not a question to be overlooked. It should never have required a FOAA request in the first place, and the absence of an answer has already caused direct and irreparable harm to me, my family, and likely many other families. I respectfully request that this information be provided by **October 8, 2025** so that I may review it in advance of the rescheduled hearing.

Lastly, to clarify the point raised about the attachment labeled "Witness List": that file was simply a PDF printout of this same email chain for reference — not a separate list of names.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:49 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:49 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

I am confirming that your hearing date will be rescheduled out beyond October 20, 2025. You will receive a new notice of hearing in the mail as you have previously.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:34 PM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I acknowledge receipt of the Department's recent responses and confirm that I accept the continuance that has been granted, and I have received the subpoena forms. I will proceed in good faith to prepare for the rescheduled hearing.

That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.
- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.

- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org;
Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opeg@legislature.maine.gov>;
rtgmich@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect

us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months.**

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process, fair notice, and transparency.** As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
[215 Long Swamp Road](#)
[Berwick, ME 03901](#)

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

[2 Anthony Avenue](#)

[Augusta, ME 04330](#)

[Phone: 207-624-7917](#)

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 4:36 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Kielty, Brenda" <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, robinson@themainewire.com

Cc: "Hammes, Lindsay" <Lindsay.Hammes@maine.gov>, "Levey, Khristin" <Khristin.Levey@maine.gov>, DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, "Schleck, Peter" <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com" <Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com>, "Tolentino, Mandie" <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>, Attorney General <Attorney.General@maine.gov>, Governor <Governor@maine.gov>, "Enis, Deanna" <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Subject: FOAA Request 1400 – Continued Obstruction, Personal Impact, and Direct Appeal for Action

Dear Ms. Kielty,

As reflected in the ongoing email chain, my repeated, civil, and reasonable requests for the information tied to **FOAA Request No. 1400** have been met with evasion, deflection, and delay.

I submitted FOAA No. 1400 on **August 1, 2025** with a **four-week** production estimate. We are well past that timeframe with no records or explanation produced. On **September 18**, you asked **Ms. Lindsay Hammes** and **Ms. Khristin Levey** for the status and any revised timeframe. Neither has provided a response. Ms. Hammes' automatic reply now indicates she is out of office until at least **October 6**, and directs me to Ms. Levey—one of the very individuals already included in your inquiry.

For context, I've been asking since **June** in this same thread for the very information FOAA 1400 seeks—*when* the decision to shut down Administrative Appeals was made, *why* MaineCare appeals were prioritized, *why* parents were not notified, and whether an official memo/directive exists. Those requests (made on **June 25, June 30, September 23**, and in between) have not been answered. **FOAA 1400 is simply my formal attempt to obtain answers to those same questions.**

The personal impact of this obstruction cannot be overstated. My children have not seen or heard from me, their father, in over **18 months** because I was coerced—under pressure from this Department and in the shadow of a jeopardy petition—into signing an amended divorce decree written entirely by my abuser. That decree is what has enabled her to alienate my children from me to this very day. Had Administrative Appeals not been shut down without notice, I could have pursued my appeal and addressed these violations long ago. Instead, the Department's decisions and delays have directly enabled ongoing parental alienation and irreparable harm to my family.

Now, even when I attempt to secure the FOAA response that should reveal the justification for this unprecedented shutdown—something that affects not just my family, but every family in Maine placed in the same position—I am once again stonewalled. This is part of a clear pattern: even the Board of Licensing granted all five licensees extensions well beyond the statutory period, and I have been denied basic answers as to why.

The evidence is plain in this very email chain: while I remain civil, respectful, transparent, and persistent, the Department's responses have been evasive, obstructive, and in bad faith. The pattern speaks for itself.

Accordingly, I respectfully request your direct intervention to ensure **FOAA No. 1400** is fulfilled without further delay or deflection. Maine residents are legally entitled to these records. I am entitled to them. And my children's right to their father has already been gravely harmed by this Department's actions.

Please also understand that I am escalating this matter, as I already have, and I will continue to escalate it to every available avenue until I get the answer I am legally entitled to—and that every Maine family deserves. This includes raising this very issue and email in public comment at OPEGA's hearing next month.

Sincerely,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 2:36 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

To clarify, I do not complete the scheduling for the administrative hearings and am not able to speak to your request for information pertaining to your request below.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:54 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Hammes, Lindsay <Lindsay.Hammes@maine.gov>; Levey, Khristin <Khristin.Levey@maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability

<opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>;
Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Attorney General
<Attorney.General@maine.gov>; Governor <Governor@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: FOAA #1400 – Request for Direct Answer

Dear Ms. Enis,

I note your response directing me to the FOAA coordinator. While I understand the technical distinction, it does not change the fact that your office administers Administrative Appeals. It is difficult to accept that the Appeals Unit could not provide something as basic as the directive or record that authorized suspending an entire appeal process regarding alleged child abuse — a decision that denied parents due process and the ability to advocate for their children's safety.

For reference, I have already included **Brenda Kielty** as well as the two DHS officials she herself contacted to participate, as required by law. Their involvement has also gone unanswered, and I will attach that request again here for clarity.

Whether or not you choose to do what is right by providing this very reasonable information — which I have now requested more times than should ever have been necessary — does not change the fact that the truth is already plain. It is clear as day that the Department has not been acting in good faith, but has instead engaged in **stonewalling, manipulation, coercion, and obstruction**, just to name a few.

Therefore, I once more restate my request, on the record:

Please provide the records or directives explaining why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is the subject of FOAA #1400. Transparency, accountability, and the protection of children demand a direct answer.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 1:42 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

This request is fulfilled through the FOAA coordinator not through this email chain. Please reach out to the coordinator to request a status on your request.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:41 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <oega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Subject: FOAA #1400 – Direct Response Still Required

Ms. Enis,

You have now replied multiple times today, yet each response has evaded my direct question. I will restate it as plainly as possible:

Please provide the records or directives explaining why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is the subject of FOAA Request No. 1400. I expect a clear response by October 8, 2025.

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025, 13:33 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Thank you for the clarification regarding the witness list. I appreciate it.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:03 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>; Kielty, Brenda <Brenda.Kielty@maine.gov>; Bonnie.bishop@hearst.com

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Confirmation of Continuance & Renewed Request for FOAA Response

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I appreciate the confirmation that my continuance will be scheduled for a date **after October 20, 2025**. That addresses the immediate scheduling concern I raised and ensures I will have access to the Board of Licensing responses in advance of the hearing.

At the same time, I must put on the record that the **substantive concerns raised in my prior emails continue to be disregarded, deferred, or left unanswered**. Today alone, I received multiple replies from both Ms. Enis and DHHS Administrative Hearings — showing that when the Department chooses, it can respond promptly and in succession. Yet in all of these replies, the central context of my communications has not been addressed.

Accordingly, I now restate the singular question that has been at the heart of my FOAA Request No. 1400:

Please provide the written records, communications, or directives that explain why Administrative Appeals were placed on hold.

This is not a question to be overlooked. It should never have required a FOAA request in the first place, and the absence of an answer has already caused direct and irreparable harm to me, my family, and likely many other families. I respectfully request that this information be provided by **October 8, 2025** so that I may review it in advance of the rescheduled hearing.

Lastly, to clarify the point raised about the attachment labeled "Witness List": that file was simply a PDF printout of this same email chain for reference — not a separate list of names.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 12:49 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

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From: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:49 PM

To: rtgmich@gmail.com; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>

Subject: RE: Witness list

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

I am confirming that your hearing date will be rescheduled out beyond October 20, 2025. You will receive a new notice of hearing in the mail as you have previously.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:34 PM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>; Schleck, Peter <peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Acknowledgment of Continuance and Formal Objection to Department Delays

Dear Ms. Enis, Ms. Devine, and all copied,

I acknowledge receipt of the Department's recent responses and confirm that I accept the continuance that has been granted, and I have received the subpoena forms. I will proceed in good faith to prepare for the rescheduled hearing.

That said, I put on the record my formal objection to the fact that I must rely on a continuance in the first place. All five licensees in my Board of Licensing matters were granted extensions until October 20, 2025—well beyond the initial 30-day period—and that extension has forced this delay. This occurs against a documented history of delayed and obstructive responses by the Department in this matter.

Specifically:

- My FOAA request (FOAA No. 1400), submitted August 1, 2025, was not a generic request for records. Its very purpose was to ask for proof and reasoning behind the Department's decision to place Administrative Appeals on hold. That unilateral action directly, negatively, and irreparably damaged me and my family, and very likely many other families as well. It should never have required a FOAA request to obtain this basic explanation. As shown in this attached correspondence, I even asked about it directly in this very email chain, yet was met with the same evasion, obstruction, and stonewalling that has become a pattern. The Department's failure to honor its four-week production estimate, despite Ombudsman intervention, compounds this harm.
- I previously raised concerns here about the Department prioritizing MaineCare over Administrative Appeals and effectively shutting down appeals without informing parents or the public. That decision robbed me of the opportunity to address these issues months ago, long before today's continuance was necessary.
- I have been quoted extreme FOAA fees on other requests (estimates in the tens of thousands of dollars), which further functions to price me out of access to public records.

For clarity and the avoidance of further prejudice, please confirm in writing the new hearing date and that it will be scheduled after October 20, 2025 so that the Board of Licensing responses may be included in my preparation. Please provide that written confirmation by close of business October 1, 2025.

I want the record to show that, if it had been possible, I would have represented myself and had this appeal heard many months ago. The delays, failures to communicate, and obstruction I have documented here are the reasons I have not been able to do so.

Thank you,
Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Sep 24, 2025 at 11:20 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the form that would need to be completed to request a subpoena. Please complete one form for each subpoena you are requesting. When you have completed the form(s) please return them to Administrative Hearings either by email, fax or mail for processing.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 10:23 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; ombudsman@cwombudsman.org;

Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opegga@legislature.maine.gov>;

rtgmich@gmail.com

Subject: FW: Witness list

Good morning,

I noticed that the Department of Administrative Hearings was not included in this email chain so I am forwarding this to the general mailbox as appropriate.

The subject of the email indicated "witness list". There was no witness list attached.

In respect to your request:

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

The Department is amenable to a continuance. The Department is not amenable to the record remaining open so that responses into evidence is submitted as there would be no opportunity to cross pertaining to

the information submitted after the hearing.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:22 PM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>; Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability <opega@legislature.maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Subject: Subpoena Request Forms & Concern Regarding Licensing Complaint Extensions

Hello,

As you know, I previously requested a continuance because I was provided a large volume of paperwork only days before the last scheduled hearing. While I have not yet had the chance to fully review all of that material, I intend to move forward and will be prepared for the upcoming hearing next month, doing my best as I have throughout this process.

That said, I must raise a new concern for the record. I currently have five active complaints before the Board of Licensing against the very OCFS officials directly involved in my case:

- **2025-SOC-20907 — Christina L. Codere**
- **2025-SOC-20908 — Amy Lyn Cilley**
- **2025-SOC-20909 — Bobbi Lynn Johnson**
- **2025-SOC-20910 — Chelcie D. Stewart**
- **2025-SOC-20911 — Stephanie Ann Gaddar**

As shown in the attached email chain (Exhibit A), I was informed that each of these licensees has been granted an extension until **October 20, 2025** to file their responses. This conveniently falls *after* my Administrative Appeal hearing date, effectively preventing me from reviewing or using those responses in preparing my case.

Further, as also reflected in Exhibit A, I immediately followed up with the Board to request copies of the extension requests and clarity about the process. To date, I have been ignored. This silence disadvantages me further, reinforcing the pattern of stonewalling I have faced across multiple agencies. While I remain hopeful for fairness, history shows that stonewalling is alive and well—and again, it materially prejudices my ability to prepare.

In light of this, I respectfully request one of two remedies:

1. That the hearing be continued until after October 20th, so I may include those responses in my preparation; **or**,
2. At minimum, that the record remain open so I may submit the responses into evidence immediately upon receiving them.

Separately, as the hearing date approaches, I also request that you send me, via email, the paperwork required to request subpoenas. I would like to begin submitting subpoena requests promptly to ensure the necessary witnesses are called.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Ryan Michaels

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 1:48 PM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Received, thank you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

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From: Tolentino, Mandie <Mandie.Tolentino@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>; rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: RE: Witness list

Based on the volume of material and agreement of both parties, the request to continue hearing is granted.

Thank you.

Mandie Tolentino

Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5351

Fax (207) 287-8448

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:11 PM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: RE: Witness list

The Department is amenable to Mr. Michaels request for a continuance.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>; Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Request for Continuance of Hearing Scheduled for July 1 2025.

I am writing to respectfully request a continuance of the hearing currently scheduled for tomorrow, 7/1/25. Yesterday, I received a substantial packet of information in the mail related to this case. Given the volume of material—hundreds of pages provided over the past few weeks, culminating in this most recent delivery—I do not have sufficient time to thoroughly review and prepare before the hearing.

As a one hundred percent disabled veteran representing myself without legal counsel, I face additional challenges that require adequate time to read, process, and respond appropriately to these documents. Proceeding without the opportunity to review this information would severely hinder my ability to participate fully and meaningfully in my own case.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the court grant a continuance to allow me the necessary time to review the materials and prepare. I believe this would ensure a fair and just proceeding.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 11:14 Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Enis,

I understand your desire to avoid back-and-forth communication, but I must respectfully point out that **this delay is not just about scheduling a hearing — it is about the year-long denial of due process** that has caused **irreparable harm** to me and my children.

I have been waiting for **over a year** for this appeal. That's a year I cannot get back — a year during which I was denied the opportunity to defend myself in a timely manner, advocate for my children, and protect us from ongoing harm. **Had my appeal been scheduled when it should have been**, I may have been able to prevent or reduce some of the abuse and trauma that both I and my boys are still enduring today.

The hearing date in April is not the issue — the **administrative hold** that delayed my appeal without notice or explanation is.

I have asked **reasonable, specific questions** multiple times:

- When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?
- Why were MaineCare appeals prioritized?
- Why were parents — the directly impacted parties — not informed?
- What policy, memo, or directive authorized this?

If the goal truly is to avoid back-and-forth, then the solution is simple: **answer the questions**. Instead, what I've received is deflection — not just today, but for months. This ongoing silence only reinforces the lack of transparency that got us here in the first place.

I am not requesting a continuance. I intend to proceed with the July 1 hearing, but I will also ensure that this failure of due process is entered into the record. I will not allow my rights or my children's suffering to be swept under the rug for the sake of procedural convenience.

Respectfully,

Ryan Michaels

rtgmich@gmail.com

207-216-7955

215 Long Swamp Road

Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Although I do not want to get into back and forth communication, I would like to point out that the scheduling letter was sent out in April and you have had since then to prepare for the July 1st hearing.

If you do not feel you had adequate time to prepare and would like to request a continuance so that you can prepare, the Department would not be opposed to a continuance. If you would like a continuance, please put the request in writing (email would do) and submit it to the hearings office and myself.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:55 AM

To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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Thank you for your response.

To clarify, this information is **highly pertinent** to the hearing on July 1st and to my ability to participate in it effectively. The administrative hold on all OCFS investigative appeals — which I inquired about in April but never received a response to — **delayed the scheduling of my appeal by several critical months**.

That delay:

- **Impeded my ability to timely present evidence and prepare witnesses**
- **Delayed access to case records necessary for defending myself and my children**
- **Prevented me from engaging with the hearing process at a stage where early intervention may have made a difference for my family**
- **Obstructed my ability to advocate for my children's best interests**, particularly in light of unresolved legal and protective matters

This is not an abstract administrative complaint — it's a question of **due process**, **fair notice**, and **transparency**. As a directly affected party, I had a right to be informed of the delay, its rationale, and its projected timeline — but I was kept in the dark. That silence amplified trauma and uncertainty, which still affect this upcoming hearing.

Whether or not the hearing officer chooses to formally incorporate this matter into the record, I would appreciate your office providing a **good-faith response** to my original, reasonable questions — especially now that you've confirmed receipt.

Thank you again for your time and continued attention.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:49 AM Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am unsure of how this information is pertinent to the hearing on the 1st.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

Appeals Unit

2 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207-624-7917

FAX: 287-5282



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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:46 AM
To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Ms. Enis and Administrative Hearings Office,

First, I want to sincerely thank you both for your prompt and consistent responses today. I truly appreciate the professionalism and timeliness with which you've handled my recent inquiries.

That said, now that I know my emails are being received and seen, I must revisit a critical issue that remains unanswered — despite multiple formal requests sent in April.

As documented in our prior email chain (April 8–15, 2025), I respectfully asked several vital questions regarding the administrative hold placed on all OCFS investigative appeals that took place last year — specifically:

1. **When was the decision made to place OCFS investigative appeals on hold?**
2. **What was the official rationale for prioritizing MaineCare appeals over OCFS appeals?**
3. **Why were directly affected parties — especially parents — not notified of this decision?**
4. **Is there any official policy memo or documentation that explains this administrative action?**

To date, these reasonable questions have gone unanswered. This lack of transparency has directly harmed my ability to advocate for my children and prepare an informed defense — delaying justice and obstructing due process.

I am respectfully but urgently requesting a full written response to these questions. These appeals concern far more than procedural logistics — they affect the safety, dignity, and future of real families like mine.

Thank you again for your attention today, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,
Ryan Michaels
rtgmich@gmail.com
207-216-7955
215 Long Swamp Road
Berwick, ME 03901

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

We do need time to prepare the subpoena and get it mailed to you, and then you will need to serve the individual who the subpoena is for. If your hearing date is less than 10 days away there may not be enough time to allow all of that. I can not say if it would automatically be rejected, as that is not my decision. If you can get the form back to me quickly, I can get it to the Chief Hearing Officer and see if we can get it turned around quickly for you.

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

TTY users call Maine Relay 711

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:33 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Witness list

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On the bottom of the format says that I have to do this ten days in advance of the hearing date. Does this mean it will be rejected if I put it in?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:26 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Mr. Michaels,

I have attached the notice we mailed out to you in April. The notice will show you the date, time and phone number to call for your hearing. I have also attached a form for requesting a subpoena. Please complete one form for each requested subpoena. If you have any questions regarding completion of the form, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House](#) Station

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:14 AM

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Cc: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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Wonderful thank you.

Can you also send me the call in info, time it starts, etc.

Also, am I able to subpoena anyone? If so how do I go about this?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:12 DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

We do not have a deadline for exchanging witness lists. If you would like to provide one, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House Station](#)

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From: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:07 AM
To: rtgmich@gmail.com
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: RE: Witness list

It came from the administrative hearings office so I am not sure.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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From: Ryan michaels <rtgmich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov>
Cc: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Witness list

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When was this mailed?

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025, 10:04 Enis, Deanna <Deanna.Enis@maine.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

The information that will help was in the scheduling packet that was mailed to you.

Thank you,

Deanna Enis, LSW

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Child and Family Services

Social Services Specialist II

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2 attachments

 **Gmail - Automatic reply_ Witness list.pdf**
113K

 **Gmail - Formal Complaint_ Non-Compliance with FOAA Request – DHHS FOAA 1400.pdf**
127K