

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

## Office of the Attorney General

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DON STENBERG

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NO. STATE OF NEBRASKA OFFICIAL

MAY 3 1995

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

STEVE GRASZ
LAURIE SMITH CAMP
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

DATE:

May 3, 1995

SUBJECT:

Liability of Local Foster Care Review Board Members

Regarding Placements.

REQUESTED BY:

Senator Michael T. Avery Nebraska State Legislature

WRITTEN BY:

Don Stenberg, Attorney General

John R. Thompson, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Dear Senator Avery:

In your April 27, 1995 letter you enclosed two prior opinion letters written to Ms. Carol Stitt, Executive Director, State Foster Care Review Board, one dated September 24, 1984 and the other dated April 23, 1986. You have asked that we review those two prior Opinions and advise you whether they need to be changed at this time since you have pending as your priority bill LB 642 which transfers some review functions from the Department of Social Services to the Foster Care Review Board.

We understand from reviewing the bill, the Committee statement, and the fiscal statement, that under LB 642 either the State Foster Care Review Board or one of the local foster care review boards established and appointed by the State Board will be conducting reviews now conducted by the Department of Social Services. We understand that in the process the State Foster Care Review Board will establish 26 new local boards.

We have reviewed both of the above Opinions and submit that they accurately reflect our current opinion with respect to the questions raised in those Opinions. Michael T. Avery May 3, 1995 Page -2-

While the liability principles will remain the same, there may be additional liability exposure for the State since 26 new local foster care review boards will be established under LB 642. The additional exposure may depend in part on the nature and extent of the supervision of the local boards and their activities by the State Foster Care Review Board.

Please let us know if you need anything further.

Very truly yours,

DON STENBERG

Attorney General

John R. Thompson

Senior Assistant Attorney General

4-632-7.12

APPROVED BY:

DON STENBERG, Attorney General