

October 22, 2003

Mr. Thomas Fitton  
501 School Street, SW Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thank you for your October 20 letter to Governor Bush and Secretary Regier about Ms. Terri Schiavo. The Governor has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

In the letter you requested an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Ms. Schiavo's disability and treatment. Thirteen years ago Terri Schiavo suffered brain damage from a sudden collapse. The allegations are that Michael Schiavo, Terri's husband, has denied her any rehabilitation treatment since 1993. On Wednesday, October 15, 2003, Michael Schiavo directed that Terri's feeding tube be disconnected; subjecting her to starvation and dehydration, that will result in an agonizing death in approximately 10 to 14 days.

Your letter attachment contained a fax form to report abuse, from the Department of Children and Families; which, you stated that you have already sent to the Hotline fax unit. We also sent the information to the appropriate contacts at the Florida Abuse Hotline.

Should you have any more information, please call our Abuse Hotline number at 1-800-962-2873 and speak with a counselor.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to Governor Bush with your concerns about Ms. Schiavo.

  
Susan Henley  
Chief of the Florida Abuse Hotline