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James Wale

Executive Director

Deputy Director of Child Welfare

Email: james.wale@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Urgent Request for Senior-Level Intervention — Case of Bennett James Thomas (DOB: Dec 19, 2018)

Dear Mr. Wale,

I am writing with deep concern and urgency regarding the Ministry's handling of my six-year-old son, Bennett James Thomas. At a multidisciplinary meeting on August 19, 2025, I clearly stated that I did not consent to government care and that a family-led discharge plan—developed and approved by Bennett's medical and therapeutic team—was already in place. Despite this, MCFD apprehended him from BC Children's Hospital on August 28 without verified risk, consultation, or lawful grounds.

Since that day, Bennett's rights, health, and emotional well-being have been compromised. His removal disregarded a valid Supreme Court order assigning temporary guardianship to my brother, a safe and stable caregiver already trained in Bennett's care. The Ministry's decision to place him in a group resource lacking nursing oversight and developmental support violated the principle of least-intrusive intervention and directly undermined his stability.

The continued exclusion of his care team and me from planning, the cancellation of medical follow-ups after injury reports, and restrictions on communication all contradict the Ministry's duty to ensure a child's safety, family continuity, and participation in care decisions. I have been medically cleared and remain fully capable of resuming his care; there is no substantiated reason for Bennett to remain in custody.

I am respectfully requesting your immediate intervention to:

- Facilitate Bennett's safe and prompt return to my care;
- Suspend the inaccurate "Draft Family Plan" and order a collaborative reassessment with his professionals;
- Investigate procedural and care failures surrounding his apprehension and placement; and
- Restore open communication and medical continuity for Bennett.

My intent is not adversarial. I believe we share the same goal—Bennett's safety, healing, and right to grow up surrounded by those who know and love him. I ask for your leadership to correct what has gone wrong and to ensure that the Ministry upholds both the spirit and intent of the law: to protect children without causing further harm.

Respectfully,
Darian Thomas
Mother and Sole Guardian of Bennett James Thomas



Signature