January 7, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent
Illinois Department of Education
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 14-300
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Dr. Christopher Koch:

I am conducting research on SCHOOL social workers who have been sanctioned for unethical conduct. The focus of the research is to identify the types of ethical challenges that SCHOOL social workers face. By compiling statistics on aggregate issues that identify the types of unethical behaviors (not the individual social workers), this research adds to the existing professional literature on ethics in the social work field. In this month's issue of Social Work, I had an article published on social workers sanctioned by state licensing boards; it described information on 875 sanctioned social workers. My goal is to gather similar information about school social workers. This research study has been reviewed by Governors State University Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects, to insure the highest ethical standards in research.

As part of the data collection efforts, we have visited your website and gathered the information there. I need to confirm the following:

Could you please provide me with the information on the following questions:

1. Under what type(s) of certification or licensure are SCHOOL social workers regulated in your state? For example, is there a certified school social work license or might a school social worker be employed under a designation of counselor, social service worker, etc?
2. Is there a license exemption in your state for SCHOOL social workers who are employed by any state or private educational districts?
3. Which state regulatory board supervises school social work licenses and complaints? For example is it handled by the state's education regulators or the state's professional license board?
4. I need to gather information on SCHOOL social workers who were sanctioned in your state from 2000-2008 (or for as long as records are available). I need copies of Findings of Fact and Final Orders of the sanctions. How may I request copies of these documents? If the information is posted on your website, might I please have a list of the social workers, license numbers, and dates of the sanctions?

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (708) 235-3976 or k-boland-prom@govst.edu if you have any questions about this request or my research. Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Sincerely,

Kim Boland-Prom, Ph.D., MSW, MA, LCSW
Assistant Professor
Social Work Department