

HOME SCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION

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September 22, 2006

Mr. Roman Giertych
Ministry of Education
Warsaw, Poland

VIA FACSIMILE: 011-48-22-347-4205

Re: New legal option for homeschooling

Dear Mr. Giertych,

While preparing a presentation on International Homeschooling for our National Homeschool Leaders Conferences in both the United States and Canada, I contacted Mrs. Nancy Stebnicki for information updating what has transpired in Poland since their meeting with you in July. At that time, they were very encouraged because of your desire to help homeschooling in Poland.

They said you had agreed to their request to change the homeschooling policy or laws so that private schools would enjoy the same right to receive notice of parental intent to home educate their children and to help parents with their homeschool requirements. That was a great freedom attained.

There are many states in the United States where homeschools legally operate as or under the supervision of private schools: Alabama, Florida, Virginia, Maine, Texas, California, Indiana, Illinois, Colorado, Maryland, and others.

At that time, Mrs. Stebnicki, asked you what should she tell parents that had their request to home educate their children refused by their local public school principal. She said that you told her to tell the parents to register their children in a private school.

Mrs. Stebnicki said that several of the families have tried to do that but since the private school does not have any written assurance that the law is or will reflect this new change, they are not willing to go against the current law.

We are concerned that this lack of confirmation of the agreed upon changes has now caused hardship for several families.

Is there anyway that we could be of help? Could we send you copies of similar laws in the U.S.?

We are very interested in what is happening with the issue of homeschooling in Poland. We have been in contact with homeschoolers in Poland for many years now and would like to help them gain the freedoms that our country has granted the parents of this country.

As the situation stands now, Mrs. Stebnicki has tried to contact your assistant, Pani Dorosz, for over three weeks to obtain a document confirming the new changes. She has been told that someone will get back to her each time - and now there is an emergency as one family is facing problems with their local school.

An answer is needed!

By the way, we are very aware of all of the political issues in Poland right now and what a busy time this is for you. Though the number of homeschooling families is not a large group, they are loyal, dedicated, and focused people. They very much support you in your work—and will be there to back you up for years to come. This is a strong movement that will grow with time and be a very strong ally in years to come.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris J. Knicka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher J. Knicka
Senior Counselor

CJK:kts