

Subject: [FWD: FW: exchange student of kai-wen, chiu]  
From: dgrijalva@csfes.org  
Date: Thu, September 11, 2008 9:57 am  
To: "sophia " <sophia@houstoncul.org> Cc: wusf@houstoncul.org, kbrice@ssisd.net

Dear Ms. Chang:

CSFES received the following email from Kai-Wen's Sulphur Springs High School counselor this morning:

Ms. Grijalva-

Karen Chiu is in my office this morning....things are still unresolved. Becky Sanderson has told her that she must make a decision this weekend about where she is going to live.....either in Emory or stay here with her current host family. Becky has also told the home office that Karen's sister is very unhappy with her host family in Indiana-and that is not true. Karen's sister is very happy with her situation. Karen's mom believes that Becky is trying to convince the home office that these two girls are just trying to stir up trouble and that they are "bad" kids.

I don't know what I need to do at this point. Karen is depressed and confused about this whole matter.

I need some help....please respond when you have time.

Ms. Chang, might you contact Sally Lawrence of the U.S. Department of State, Lawrencesj@state.gov, (202) 203-5152 or the student's placement agency, DM Discoveries (631) 893-8059, Ms. Diana DeClemente. CSFES has left messages for Ms. DeClemente and Mr. Brewer of DM Discoveries to no avail. The representative responsible for this placement: Becky Sanderson (903) 348-4002.

Kai-Wen's parents spent approximately \$11,000 for their daughter to remove fecal matter from both the washing machine and dryer prior to use. Please see No. 4 of the student's letter below.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Respectfully,

Danielle Grijalva, Director  
Committee for Safety of Foreign Exchange Students  
P.O. Box 6496 / Oceanside, CA 92052

<http://www.csfes.org/> / 866-471-9203

----- Original Message -----

Subject: FW: exchange student of kai-wen, chiu

From: "sophia" [houstoncul.org](mailto:houstoncul.org)>

Date: Tue, September 09, 2008 1:41 pm

To: , <kbrice@ssisd.net> Cc: 錫冲軒鑼?<wusf@houstoncul.org>

Dear Kelly and Danielle:

Thank you for supporting Karen. We received some information which is contract and agreement in Chinese from Karen and her parents. According to the contract, Home stay family should obligate to provide Karen in comfortable and sanitary environment which they are not following this contract.

Also, as attachment, you would find out more detail.

Please feel free to let us know how we would help Karen.

Ps, Please read as follow. Karen reported to school.

Sincerely,

**廖俊苞 Sophia Chang**

Cultural officer Cultural Division, TECO in Houston Tel: 713-871-0851 Fax: 713-871-

0854 [sophia@houstoncul.org](mailto:sophia@houstoncul.org)

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Dear Sir,

I am an exchange student in TX now. My name is Kai-Wen, Chiu (Karen as English name).

First of all, I like to than you for taking your time to read this short email.

Second of all, I really like going to Sulphur Spring High and I like the classmates and teachers. Because of them, I am strong enough to face what I have to with my current host family. Going to the States, it is my dream and my family dream to learn different cultures, to meet new friends and study English.

March, this year, I knew that I was assigned to TX and I was aware that the host parents have problem with the hearing and the two girls are cute from the photos. My family even told me that I could learn sign language from the family as second skills and got along well with the two kids, at that time, I thought so.

However, it is not what we (my family and I) thought after I live with them for about 3 weeks. Followings are the issues I am having now:

1. before school starts, I had stayed at home for two weeks and during the time, I only visited church twice. Other than that, no more activities with the host family inside the house, not even mention about going outside. I realized that no family activities taken in this family.
2. two little girls, one is 3 and one is 4, I was awaken by their crying most of the time. The kids were crying outside their parents door but their parents could not hear them for some reason. Finally, it was me who opened the door and made them calm down. Sometimes I cried with them together for helpless. It was not me to make them stop crying, it is because the kids were too tired to cry.
3. after school starts, I am so happy and think I should be busy with school stuff and forget about the headache I am having with the family. But the reality is, I have to face an environment which is

full of mix sound of video game, TV and kids crying whenever they like to. Host father was shouting at kids because of the hearing problem. I can not image what I will be in the following 9 months if I were going to live with them. Will I become a shouter, have bad temper or someone I can not accept totally?

4. the host family is not organized, the air is full of urine smell and its mark on some places, kids droppings in the restroom sometimes and droppings found in washer and dryer sometimes. When I want to wash or dry my clothing, I have to clean the machine before I do it.

I can't fit into this family and I don't think the family will be changed because of me and actually they don't have to. As a high school student, my purpose is very simply here. To study with local youngster and have good interaction with host family.

What I like to do now is going to school, but I can not have a rest at home.  
Please help me because no one does but you.

Sincerely,  
Karen Chiu