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June 13, 2025

School Board of Alachua County  
Honorable Sarah Rockwell, Ph.D., Chair  
Hon. Tina Certain, Vice-Chair  
Hon. Thomas Vu  
Hon. Leanetta McNealy, Ph.D.  
Hon. Janine Plavac  
620 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Chair Rockwell, Vice Chair Certain, and School Board Members Vu, McNealy, and Plavac:

As Florida's chief legal officer, I write to inform you that our Office of Parental Rights received a complaint reporting that two biological boys are in a second-grade girls' cabin at Alachua County Public Schools' Camp Crystal Lake ("Camp"). If accurate—and we have no reason to doubt this complaint's credibility—this practice violates Florida law, and blatantly contradicts the School Board's policy and the Camp's own operational guidelines.

The State of Florida and its school boards bear the "paramount" duty to make adequate provision for the "safe, secure" education of children.<sup>1</sup> To fulfill this obligation, school officials must govern in a manner "consistent and in harmony with state laws and with rules and minimum standards of the state board."<sup>2</sup> Florida law clearly separates and protects the private spaces of boys and girls. Florida's Safety in Private Spaces Act ("Act") states that every educational institution shall "establish disciplinary procedures for any student who willfully enters ... a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex on the premises of the educational institution."<sup>3</sup> The Act defines "sex" as "the classification of a person as either female or male based on the organization of the body of such person for a specific reproductive role, as indicated by the person's sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, and internal and external genitalia present at birth."<sup>4</sup> In recognizing the need for

<sup>1</sup> Art. IX, § 1(a), Fla. Const.

<sup>2</sup> § 1001.32(1), Fla. Stat. (2025).

<sup>3</sup> § 553.865(9)(a), Fla. Stat. (2025).

<sup>4</sup> § 553.865(3)(l), Fla. Stat. (2025). The statute goes on to define "female" as "a person belonging, at birth, to the biological sex which has the specific reproductive role of producing eggs" and "male" as

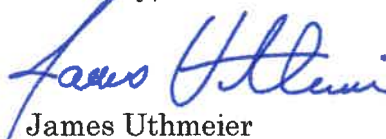
sex-specific accommodations in restrooms and changing facilities, the Legislature sought to protect children in these private and vulnerable settings. Children in overnight sleeping facilities are entitled to privacy and protection guaranteed by the Act.

The Alachua County School Board's Policy Manual adopted the Act's definition for "sex" verbatim and provides that "the District maintains a number of changing facilities designated for exclusive use by females and males."<sup>5</sup> The Camp's website states that "camps are divided into boys' and girls' cabins by age."<sup>6</sup> It further states, "Our ten modern cabins are split between the girls' side (Cabins G1-G5) and the boys' side (Cabins B1-B5)."<sup>7</sup> This language leaves no ambiguity regarding the Camp's intent to separate sleeping quarters based on biological sex. Allowing male children to reside in cabins designated for girls directly contradicts these stated policies. This inconsistency not only undermines the integrity of the Camp's operational commitments but also calls into question the Board's oversight and enforcement of basic safeguards for children's safety and privacy. Allowing boys to stay overnight in girls' facilities violates the Camp's policy, the School Board's policy, and Florida law.

Allowing male children to lodge in cabins designated for young girls compromises the safety and emotional well-being of all children involved, disregards parents' rights and prerogatives, and undermines the longstanding norms intended to protect minors in sex-specific spaces. It upends basic principles of privacy, decency, and common sense. Such actions demonstrate a troubling departure from the duty of care owed to children and disregard the clear legislative intent expressed by the State of Florida. My office will not tolerate policies that place faddish ideology and social experimentation above the rights and safety of Florida's children.

The Board and Camp staff should immediately separate these children into their proper, sex-based sleeping quarters, and continue that practice in all future camp sessions. Failure to do so may require my office to undertake further legal enforcement measures and render district officials liable as otherwise provided by law.<sup>8</sup>

Sincerely,



James Uthmeier  
Florida Attorney General

Cc: Manny Diaz, Jr.,  
Commissioner of Education

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"a person belong, at birth, to the biological sex which has the specific reproductive role of producing sperm." § 553.865(3)(f) and (h), Fla. Stat. (2025).

<sup>5</sup> *Policy Manual*, Alachua County Public Schools, Feb. 20, 2024, [go.boarddocs.com/fl/alaco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AMTSM670705B#](https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/alaco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AMTSM670705B#).

<sup>6</sup> *Summer Camp FAQ*, Camp Crystal Lake, [campcrystal.com/summer-camp/faq/](https://campcrystal.com/summer-camp/faq/).

<sup>7</sup> *Facilities*, Camp Crystal Lake, [campcrystal.com/facilities/](https://campcrystal.com/facilities/).

<sup>8</sup> § 112.51(1), Fla. Stat. (2025).