

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Media Contacts:**

**ALM | LAW** – Allison Mahoney, [allison@almlawllc.com](mailto:allison@almlawllc.com)

**RATHOD | MOHAMEDBHAI LLC**— Ciara Anderson, [ca@rmlawyers.com](mailto:ca@rmlawyers.com)  
Matthew Cron, [mc@rmlawyers.com](mailto:mc@rmlawyers.com)

**FORMER YOUTH SUE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES, THE WYOMING BOYS' SCHOOL, AND WYOMING BOYS' SCHOOL STAFF FOR CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

**CHEYENNE, February 26, 2024**—ALM | LAW and RATHOD | MOHAMEDBHAI, on behalf of Charles “Rees” Karn, Blaise Chivers-King, and Dylan Tolar, have filed a lawsuit against the Wyoming Department of Family Services (“DFS”), the Wyoming Boys’ School, the Superintendent of the Wyoming Boys’ School, and nine Wyoming Boys’ School staff who significantly harmed plaintiffs while they were in Wyoming’s care and custody.

Rees Karn was held at the Wyoming Boys’ School from 2017 to 2019, when he was thirteen to fifteen years old, and again from 2019 to 2021, when he was fifteen to seventeen years old. During his time at the Boys’ School, staff subjected Rees to extreme and protracted solitary confinement, including for thirty and forty-five days in a row. Staff also cruelly strapped Rees’ wrists and ankles to a restraint chair and starved him. Staff subjected Rees to excessive force, including one instance during which staff broke Rees’ wrist; improper and painful restraints; and psychological abuse.

Blaise Chivers-King was held at Wyoming Boys’ School from 2020 to March 2021, when he was fifteen years old, and from May 2021 to May 2022, when he was sixteen years old. During his incarceration at the Boys’ School, staff placed Blaise in solitary confinement approximately twenty times, with each period of isolation ranging from days to weeks. Staff also subjected him to improper and painful restraints, excessive force, deprivation of medication, and ruthless psychological abuse. Blaise became so distraught during his time at the Boys’ School that he regularly contemplated suicide.

Dylan Tolar, who appears by and through his mother, was held at the Wyoming Boys’ School from June 2020 through February 2021, when he was seventeen and eighteen years old. At the Wyoming Boys’ School, Dylan experienced discrimination based on his disabilities, including being locked alone in his room for hours on end; emotional and psychological abuse, including being called a “clown” and a “slow zombie”; and denial of necessary medical care. For instance, staff withheld Dylan’s leg brace, causing long-term damage to his leg. At the Boys’ School, Dylan also began experiencing grand mal seizures due to the stress the staff inflicted on him.

The Wyoming Boys’ School is a state-run juvenile correctional facility overseen by Wyoming DFS. Many of the residents at the Boys’ School suffer from trauma, disabilities, and some form of mental illness. Rather than providing the rehabilitative and restorative treatments that the

Wyoming Boys' School promises, staff at the Boys' School unlawfully subjected the young people who were sent there to cruel and harsh punishments.

The defendants include Wyoming DFS, the Wyoming Boys' School, Wyoming Boys' School Superintendent Dale Weber, and current and former Wyoming Boys' School staff, including Elsa Olsa (a dorm director and the Prison Rape Elimination Act Compliance Manager), Tate Adams (a dorm director), Thad Shaffer (a security guard), John Schwalbe (dorm staff), Mike Nelson (a dorm supervisor and dorm director), Mark Nelson (a security guard), Kevin McGenty (dorm staff), Margaret Dahlke (a nurse), and Amanda Turner (a dorm director).

The defendants caused plaintiffs to suffer significant harm. As a result, the plaintiffs left the Boys' School more damaged and traumatized than when they first entered the facility.

“The Wyoming Boys' School was entrusted to care for these three vulnerable boys, but utterly failed to do so,” said Allison Mahoney, Founder and Managing Attorney at ALM | LAW. “No child should ever endure the horrors of abuse that Rees, Blaise, and Dylan experienced, especially within a system meant to rehabilitate and support them.”

“No human being should be subjected to solitary confinement. Blaise, Rees, and Dylan are forever changed because of the cruel treatment they endured while in Wyoming's custody. It is astonishing that the abuses our clients suffered have been shielded from the public's knowledge for so long. Wyoming must take a hard look at how children are being treated,” said Ciara Anderson, an attorney at RATHOD | MOHAMEDBHAI.

###

#### **About ALM | LAW**

ALM | Law is a boutique law firm that represents survivors of abuse, helping them to share their stories, find justice, and regain control of their lives. ALM | Law represents children harmed while in the custody of child welfare systems and survivors of sexual abuse, image-based sexual abuse, and intimate partner violence. The firm has offices in Colorado and New York City. For more information, please visit [almlawllc.com](http://almlawllc.com).

#### **About RATHOD | MOHAMEDBHAI LLC**

RATHOD | MOHAMEDBHAI is an industry leading law firm of experienced trial attorneys advocating on behalf of the most marginalized and disenfranchised people in our communities. Rathod Mohamedbhai attorneys passionately advocate for the civil rights of individuals oppressed by governmental abuses of power, children who have been abused, and the rights of employees in the workplace. The firm aggressively fights to vindicate clients' rights and to ensure that similar violations will not happen to others. For more information, please visit <https://rmlawyers.com/>.