

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3504

CASEWORK HOTLINE: (800) 205-OHIO (6446)

January 11, 2005

Michael Lake

Toledo, Ohio 43609

Dear Michael:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the problems you are encountering with your mental illness and legal situation. We understand that this is frustrating for you, and as your United States Senators, it is our privilege and duty to assist you in any manner available to us.

After carefully reviewing your letter, we are of the opinion that this is a private legal matter, and accordingly, our office cannot offer you any new information that would be of assistance to you. Due to separation of powers as provided in the Constitution of the United States, members of the United States Senate are unable to interfere with the proceedings, judgments, or sentences of any court of law.

The courts provide opportunity for appeal and other remedies of which you may or may not be aware. You may wish to address this with private legal counsel. While this office does not make referrals to private attorneys, you may want to contact the local bar association. If you cannot afford to hire a private attorney, we would suggest that you contact your county's Legal Services Office.

We regret that we are unable to be of more assistance to you; however, if you have a concern involving a federal agency, please do not hesitate to contact us again. Our casework hotline number is 1-800-205-OHIO(6446).

Very respectfully yours,

Sincerely Yours,



MIKE DeWINE
United States Senator



GEORGE VOINOVICH
United States Senator

RMD/GVV/IN