

Monday, November 2, 2015



Bryan Francis who was beaten and bullied in Hospital.

Children's Authority pursuing bullying case

The Children's Authority said it has made contact with the Ministry of Education to determine whether the ministry has initiated any action to find out who were the students involved in the alleged bullying and beating of Bryan Francis, a Standard One student who attends a school in south Trinidad.

His mother, Sally Sammy, says she is seeking justice for her son who remains warded at the San Fernando Hospital up to late yesterday. She also claims that for the past year her son was beaten and now complains of pains in his stomach. He has also refused to attend classes.

In a statement yesterday the authority said in keeping with the its "draft protocol on reporting and investigating child abuse the Children's Authority of T&T made contact with the Ministry of Education to determine whether it had initiated its intervention into the children involved in the incident."

The authority said their information is that the Ministry of Student Support Services Division is investigating the matter. "Once the investigation is completed, and if it is determined that there is a child in need of care and protection, the Children's Authority will receive the case and begin its intervention," the statement said yesterday.

The authority said it will continue to liaise with the Ministry of Education to "determine if our intervention is required."

Sammy said her son did not want to attend classes last week so she accompanied him to the school.

She said last week in an interview: "The children at the school told me he was afraid because the boy does beat him and I realise every week and the children tell me he does get beat up everyday."

Sammy said she was told the boy in question was suspended for three days.

Sammy noted that a report was made to the Princes Town Police Station and the Child's Protective Unit was investigating.