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**From:** pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 30, 2011 4:31 PM  
**To:** info@communitycouncils.org  
**Subject:** FW: Berta's Briefings: Casey Anthony Trial Stirs Alaskans

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks  
PETER HAMLETT  
CPCC Chair

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**From:** [Representative Berta Gardner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Berta_Gardner@legis.state.ak.us)  
**To:** [Representative Berta Gardner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Berta_Gardner@legis.state.ak.us)  
**Date:** Thu, 28 Jul 2011 14:49:33 -0800  
**Subject:** Berta's Briefings: Casey Anthony Trial Stirs Alaskans



## **BERTA'S BRIEFINGS**

### REPRESENTATIVE BERTA GARDNER

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**JULY 28, 2011**

# **Casey Anthony Trial Stirs Alaskans**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

With summer here in full swing, most of us are normally just focused on enjoying all the great fishing Alaska has to offer along with visits from family and friends. However, this year the not-guilty verdicts in the Casey Anthony trial have stirred hundreds of Alaskans to contact their legislators to ensure Alaska state laws protect our children.

In case you missed it, Casey Anthony had been on trial in Florida for the 2008 disappearance and murder of her two-year-old daughter, Caylee. The investigation into the disappearance found that Caylee had been missing for over a month before the police were notified. Many Alaskans contacted me to ask me to determine whether Alaska laws are strong enough to require parents or guardians of children gone missing, or who have died, to report this information to authorities.



*One of the things I enjoy most about being in the Legislature is meeting with my constituents to hear their concerns and ideas.*

In response to people’s concerns, I made a formal request to the Legislative Research Agency to conduct a review Alaska laws concerning the death or disappearance of a child as well as compare these laws with other states.

I am happy to report that Alaska laws are some of the strongest in the nation when it comes to reporting the death or disappearance of a child. Under Alaska Statute 18.60.150 a parent or any other person with knowledge of the “mysterious disappearance” of another person is required to notify law enforcement in the area where the disappearance occurred. Failure to provide such notification is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or one year imprisonment. Alaska and Tennessee are the only states with such a requirement.

Also, under Alaska Statute 12.65.005 a death that appears to be suspicious, unexpected, of unknown cause, or that occurs without a physician attending must also be reported. Almost all states currently have similar statutes in place already.

I am heartened that people are taking time from their busy summer schedules to bring this important issue to my attention and I want to thank those who shared their concerns. In the Legislature I will continue to look for ways to strengthen our laws to ensure the protection and well-being and some of our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

On a lighter note, **I wanted to give you a head’s up that I am going to be hosting a district-wide barbecue and constituent meeting at the end of summer.** This will be a chance for me to hear your concerns in person well in advance of the Legislature’s reconvening in January. Stay tuned for details! Meanwhile, I hope you all are enjoying this beautiful Alaska summer and will please contact me any time with your ideas and concerns. My Anchorage phone is (907) 269-0174 and my email address is [Rep\\_Berta\\_Gardner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Rep_Berta_Gardner@legis.state.ak.us)

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I'm Berta and I'm still listening,

Berta

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