

**December 1992**

**From the heart:** My heart is grieved by situations in Tennessee in which legitimate homeschool families have been intimidated by governmental authorities. (Or, have quit homeschooling because they thought they could no longer do so legally.) Many parents teach their children at home out of personal conviction of their responsibility before God. Parents having students in grades K through 8 have had little interference from the State Department of Education or local boards.

However, there will be continual conflict between homeschoolers and the public school system. The efficiency of parents teaching their children at home stands as a threat to school's constant need for more books, more computers, longer hours, more days, more years, more teachers, better buildings, more money, etc. Institutional programs such as public education tend to continually grow, ultimately becoming malignant.

To maintain freedoms in your state, it is important to know what those freedoms are, and to know the limits of the State Department of Education.

I recently read through the Tennessee State Constitution, and was amazed to learn that the government is not the ultimate authority in our state. This Constitution is the foundation on which our laws are built and governmental offices established. I have included several sections of this document. I know that most of you are not proficient at reading legal jargon, but you will find these enlightening. As you read, consider the question: How can my knowledge of this protect my family? "Am I my brother's keeper?" Is the parent without a college degree my brother? How about the family in my area who is being accused of child abuse because they have accepted the God-given responsibility of training and teaching their children? Try reading these passages aloud with them in mind.

Included also is an updated copy of the Tennessee state laws relating to home education. Read carefully to make a clear distinction of terms. Just because the law says, "Home school" does not necessarily mean that those sections apply to you. In which group of section 49-6-3001(c)(3)(A) are you included? Ask God for wisdom and understanding as you read this. Consider very carefully and prayerfully how the law affects you.

Sincerely,

Greg Stablein