



SOCIAL SECURITY

March 12, 2009

Alan L. Cowles, M.D., Ph.D.
1121 Stoneridge Drive
Lawrence, Kansas 66049-4772

Dear Dr. Cowles:

The Deputy Commissioner for Operations requested that I respond to your letter dated January 10, 2009. Your letter indicated you were aware of other situations in which there was destruction of a consultant opinion without their knowledge or consent. We are confident that the appropriate safeguards are in place that would not permit this type of activity. In the future, if there is a sense this has occurred, we would encourage consultants to bring this to the attention of the DDS management. As previously stated, any such action is inconsistent with our policy and is not condoned by the Social Security Administration.

Again, we do appreciate you sharing your ongoing concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ruby Burrell
Associate Commissioner
for Disability Determinations

cc:
Linda S. McMahon
Roger McDonnell