



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

**News Release**

For Immediate Release  
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## **Retired Judge Tommy Jewell Declines Nomination As CYFD Secretary**

### **Mary-Dale Bolson to remain as acting secretary for up to 30 days**

SANTA FE- Retired Judge Tommy Jewell today sent Governor Bill Richardson a letter declining his nomination as Secretary of the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department.

“Regretfully I accept Judge Jewell’s decision, although I understand why he felt it was necessary,” said Governor Richardson. “Tommy Jewell remains one of our state’s most effective advocates for children and families, and in this decision, as with so many others he has made over the years, he continues to put their interests, and the interests of the state first.”

Outgoing Secretary Mary-Dale Bolson will remain as acting Secretary for up to 30 days while the search for a new Secretary resumes. Governor Richardson has designated Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish to lead this effort, as well as a complete review of the CYFD administrative and policy structure.

Here is the complete text of Judge Jewell’s letter:

March 5, 2006

Governor Bill Richardson  
State Capitol  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Governor Richardson:

It is with deep regret that I must decline your appointment as Cabinet Secretary for the Children, Youth and Family's Department. While I am appreciative of your unwavering confidence in me, I believe my effectiveness would be hindered by questions related to unsubstantiated domestic abuse allegations made against me several years ago.

Please accept my sincere apology for having failed to disclose this matter to you, and know that it was not my intention to withhold information or to mislead you in any way. Since the accusations were reported in the media and the case was sealed, I believed it was resolved and in the past.

I see a bright future for the children, youth and families of New Mexico who are served by the more than 2000 dedicated employees of CYFD. They are your greatest asset in your battle against the abuse and neglect of children in this state. I encourage you to devote your resources and expertise toward helping children at the beginning stages of life so that they may reach their fullest potential – this is the greatest service you and your administration can give to our children.

Please accept my thanks for the opportunity to serve New Mexico in this position. I would also like to thank the Lieutenant Governor, your staff and all who have supported me through this challenging time.

Governor, I want you, my family and friends to know that I will continue to be an advocate and champion for the children and families of New Mexico. I have devoted over 25 years of my life to helping children overcome the barriers and challenges that have been thrust upon them. I have much to offer and I will not allow this professional setback to keep me from fulfilling my duty to the people of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Hon. Tommy E Jewell, Ret.