

State drops abuse charges against ex-day care operators

Couple vows never to resume child care

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without the reliable hearsay evidence there are no means by which the state can proceed in this case," Solomon wrote. "The medical evidence alone is not enough to get past a directed verdict of acquittal."

Sheriff's spokesman George Crolius declined to comment on the action.

"We'll just live with the decision of the state attorney," Crolius said.

Beryl Danville said her heart goes out to the girl who was abused, but added, "I know it didn't happen with me."

Officials of state and private agencies that oversaw the Danvilles' day-care center expressed relief at Monday's decision and said they would welcome the

'It was a nightmare to me. I cried day and I cried night. It shattered my life.'

Beryl Danville, 56

couple back into the fold.

"They ran the neatest home, and Mrs. Danville was just a wonderful provider," said Weinstein of the Child Care Connection. "We'd certainly love to have her back."

But the Danvilles, soured by their experience, said they would find another line of work.

"We won't be taking care of children again," said Beryl Danville.

HRS spokesman Ruben Betancourt, while not addressing the specifics of the Danville case, said the agency would treat the couple "with the same self-respect and complete thoroughness as every parent in the foster parent program" if they choose to reopen their home.

"I believed they were innocent all along," said Christa McElroy, a next-door neighbor. "To me it's a crime. Who would like to be locked up for something they didn't do?"