PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN NOTICE

NOTICE OF LIMITED NONCONSENT

Request for Written Child Protection Information | MAINE

Date: [Date] Parent / guardian: [Full name]

Mailing address: [Street, city, state, ZIP] Contact (optional): [Email / phone]

To: Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) — [Office / worker]

Re: [Child initials / reference number]

To the child protection investigator and supervisor:

I understand OCFS investigates child protection reports under 22 M.R.S. § 4021. I request written explanations of proposed voluntary action and a copy of any finding and its review instructions.

NOTICE REGARDING VOLUNTARY CONSENT

I do not give blanket advance consent to voluntary interviews of me, consensual nonemergency entry or searches, optional adult testing or evaluations, blanket releases of confidential records, or proposed voluntary services and safety plans. I will consider each request individually, including after consulting counsel. This notice does not prohibit a lawful child interview, emergency action, or valid court order.

STATE-SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS AND RIGHTS

- Under 22 M.R.S. § 4021(3), OCFS may interview a child without prior parent notification in qualifying circumstances. Schools cannot generally condition a lawful OCFS school interview on parental consent, but may require the statutory written certification. The school-access provision excludes certain out-of-home allegations governed separately.
- Section 4021(4) calls for audio recording planned child interviews to the extent possible; subsection (5) protects specified persons' rights to record. OCFS guidance provides a 30-day paper-review request after RECEIPT of an indicated or substantiated finding letter. Under 10-148 C.M.R. ch. 201, § IX, the request must generally be RECEIVED within that period; late requests need good cause and remain subject to a 90-day outside limit measured from mailing of the finding notice.

PLEASE PROVIDE IN WRITING

- Worker/supervisor information, reference number, disclosable allegations, and available investigation or parent-rights brochures.
- For proposed home entry, an adult interview, optional testing, confidential-record releases or voluntary services, explain consent requested and legal authority for required actions.
- If a finding is issued, provide the paper-review form and filing instructions. OCFS guidance lists: Substantiation Reviews, DHHS, 11 State House Station, 2 Anthony Ave., Augusta, ME 04333-0011. An upheld SUBSTANTIATED finding can proceed to a hearing; an upheld INDICATED finding may qualify only upon a determination of collateral consequences under ch. 201, § XI. Related court cases may delay or prevent paper review; request case-specific guidance.

Please place this notice in the agency record and acknowledge receipt. Routine, nonurgent requests may be delivered in writing; urgent child-safety concerns can be communicated promptly.

Parent / guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

LEGAL REFERENCES: 22 M.R.S. § 4021(3)-(5); 10-148 C.M.R. ch. 201; OCFS Findings and Appeals guidance.

CAUTION: This notice is not a finding appeal. For a finding appeal, follow the proper paper-review filing method; do not rely on emailing an ordinary request unless OCFS expressly accepts that accommodation. The department's public guide is simplified; the rule describes limited hearing eligibility after some upheld indicated findings. Verify current rules and deadlines with counsel. Research only; not attorney-approved.

IMPORTANT - NO APPEAL FILED: This notice does not file an appeal, hearing request, grievance, or court petition; it does not pause any deadline. Follow the case-specific notice and filing instructions.