PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN NOTICE

NOTICE OF LIMITED NONCONSENT

Request for Written Child Protection Information | MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

To: Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) - [area office / worker]

Re: [Child initials / investigation or case reference]

To the assigned child protection investigator and supervisor:

I understand DCF investigates screened-in reports under G.L. c. 119, § 51B. I request accurate documentation of voluntary-consent decisions and all legally required first-contact notices.

MY DECISIONS ABOUT VOLUNTARY CONSENT

I do not give blanket advance consent to voluntary interviews of me, consent-based nonemergency home entry or searches, optional adult testing/evaluations, blanket releases of my private records, or proposed voluntary services or safety plans. Please present requests separately and explain the purpose and legal basis so I can consider them, including after consulting counsel. This notice does not override any valid court order, independent investigative authority, lawful child interview or emergency action.

STATE-SPECIFIC RIGHTS, LIMITS AND DEADLINES

- At the first parent/caregiver contact, 110 CMR 4.27(5) requires a standardized written rights statement describing the 51A report, the 51B response and possible use of information in court. I request that statement. Under § 4.27(6), inability to view the child triggers specified supervisory and safety procedures; this letter does not prevent lawful access.
- Under § 51B(g), DCF may offer services and, if the family declines or cannot participate, DCF or another person may file a care-and-protection petition. Declining services does not automatically close the response; any petition is governed by the court.
- For qualifying DCF decisions, including a supported report or certain alleged-perpetrator registry decisions, 110 CMR 10.06 provides a fair-hearing route. Under 110 CMR 10.08(1)(a), a written hearing request generally is due within 30 CALENDAR days of the decision, or receipt of written notice when notice is required. The appeal procedure depends on the decision.

PLEASE PROVIDE IN WRITING

- The standardized first-contact rights statement; worker/supervisor business contacts; 51B reference; and legally disclosable allegations.
- Each proposed adult interview, home visit, release, evaluation or safety/service agreement and whether consent or independent legal authority is asserted.
- Written 51B outcome and any required notice; records-request instructions; the actual hearing/grievance eligibility, filing address, required contents and deadline. Please provide any denial of a fair-hearing request in writing.

Please file this notice in the case record and confirm receipt. Nonurgent communication may be sent in writing; for urgent child-safety issues please promptly use available contact methods.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

LEGAL REFERENCES: G.L. c. 119, § 51B(a)-(g); 110 CMR 4.27(5)-(6), 10.06(11)-(12), 10.08(1)(a), 12.00; Fourth Amendment.

CAUTION: A fair-hearing request is separate from this notice; not every DCF action qualifies. Generally 30 calendar days for eligible decisions, subject to notice trigger and special rules. WORKING RESEARCH DRAFT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE.

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.