PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN NOTICE

NOTICE OF LIMITED NONCONSENT

Request for Written Child Protection Information | VERMONT

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

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

To: Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF), Family Services Division

Re: [Child initials / investigation reference]

To the assigned child protection worker and supervisor:

I understand DCF assesses and investigates valid reports under 33 V.S.A. chapter 49. I request the response type and the basis for any asserted compulsory action.

LIMITED CONSENT DECISIONS

I do not give blanket advance consent to voluntary adult interviews, consensual nonemergency home entry or search, optional adult testing or evaluations, blanket release of my private records, or voluntary services or safety plans. Please explain each request and its legal basis separately so I can decide after reviewing it and, if needed, consulting counsel. This statement does not override a court order, independently authorized child interview, lawful investigation or emergency intervention.

STATE-SPECIFIC RIGHTS, EXCEPTIONS, AND DEADLINES

- 33 V.S.A. § 4915a(a) describes an assessment's ordinary interview and safety-evaluation tasks. Under subsection (c), a family may DECLINE SERVICES OFFERED AS A RESULT OF AN ASSESSMENT.
- Under § 4915a(c), declining offered assessment services alone cannot be the sole reason for an investigation; DCF may still investigate on independently sufficient grounds or seek court intervention.
- Assessment and investigation are different. Under § 4915b(a)(2), an investigator may interview a child without parental approval in the presence of a disinterested adult. Declining assessment services does not stop a lawful investigation.

PLEASE PROVIDE IN WRITING

- The response type, lawful allegations, worker and supervisor business contacts and case reference.
- Separate written descriptions of offered services after assessment, safety plans, adult interviews, entry and records releases, with basis if considered mandatory.
- A written decision, records and appeal instructions. For a qualifying substantiation, § 4916a(c) generally requires requesting administrative review within 30 days AFTER DCF SENT the rights notice. If upheld, § 4916b(a) generally requires a WRITTEN Human Services Board appeal within 30 days AFTER the reviewer SENT the decision. Different extensions or stays may apply; this notice files neither review.

Please include this notice in the case file and confirm receipt. I request routine nonurgent correspondence in writing. For urgent child-safety concerns, please contact me promptly through an appropriate available method.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

LEGAL REFERENCES: 33 V.S.A. §§ 4915, 4915a, 4915b, 4916a, 4916b.

LIMITATION / LEGAL REVIEW HOLD: The option to decline post-assessment services does not bar investigation under § 4915b. Child-interview safeguards differ between an assessment and an investigation. Working draft; not individualized legal advice or attorney-certified.

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.