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Firm Director

## Dependency Legal Services of San Diego

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Hello,

I have been appointed to represent you in the case regarding your child.

Today you received a copy of the petition, on blue paper. That petition contains the allegations made by the social worker. At the next hearing the social worker will ask the judicial officer to say that everything contained on the petition is true. You are entitled to a trial on the petition to address whether or not it is true. The worker also filed a report today and will generally file a report for every hearing. It is important that you read every report and let me know of any mistakes in the report. It is best if you write out what is wrong with the report or make notes in the report margins. I have provided you with some pages to take notes on, it says, "Notes on Exhibits" at the top. Feel free to organize your notes any way you like, the work sheet is just a suggestion.

If the court finds the petition to be true the court usually declares the child a dependent of the court and the court then decides placement for the child. If the child is not placed with a parent the court will offer either six months or a year of services designed to reunify the child with a parent.

If the petition is found true you are most likely going to be ordered to participate in what are called reunification services; classes like parenting, drug treatment, therapy, and domestic violence groups. If your child is less than three years old as of today's date then you only have six months to show the court that you are making progress with the services. If your child is three or older you have a year to show progress. If at the end of that time you have not made progress the court can terminate your services. If your services are terminated the social worker could ask the court to terminate your parental rights and place your child for adoption. Therefore it is very important for you to participate in all court ordered services.

It is also very important for you to visit your children regularly. You should discuss with your social worker when and where you can visit. If you have any concerns about your visitation contact me immediately. Attending all visits is seen as proof that you are committed to your children and willing and able to care for them. If your child is still young enough, bring a diaper bag, you should have all of the supplies to care for your child. If your child is older and food is permitted bring lunch, dinner or snacks depending on what is appropriate for the time of day. It is better to make sandwiches instead of buying fast food and it is better to bring raisins or apples instead of candy. If permitted bring something to do to the visits, that your child will enjoy, a board game, a ball for catch, a coloring book and crayons. If possible help

your child with homework at visits. Try to see your visits as a time to parent your child as opposed to just visiting.

The social worker will be documenting your progress and participation in both your case plan and your visits. It is important that you keep records and document what you are doing as well. I have provided you with some paper on which to make notes. Feel free use something else to keep notes on. The important part is that you are keeping notes and that those notes include the date and time and what happened.

There is an additional worksheet in the packet I have given you titled, "Changed Circumstances." If you reach a point where you feel you have made enough progress in your case plan to begin unsupervised visitation or move to overnight visits this form lays out the information we need to ask the court to change a previous court order. First ask your social worker if they will make the change you are seeking, if they do not then complete the form and call me to discuss what we can do to make changes in your visits.

If you are having any trouble with your visitation, case plan or any other issue related to your case please contact me. It is also important for us to speak about a week before any hearing and at least once a month when the hearings are far apart. I will provide you with a business card with my best contact information. Feel free to email me or call me anytime. If you call 619-398-2727, someone is there to accept collect calls and transfer you to my office voice mail 9-5, Monday through Friday. If you are in custody we do have a toll free number 844-786-1848.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

### CLIENT SERVICES/PROGRESS UPDATE

SERVICE	PROVIDER INFO	ENROLLEMENT/PROGRESS /COMPLETION	OTHER NOTES
PARENTING			
SUBSTANC ABUSE			
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE			
INDIVIDUAL THERAPY			
VISITATIONS	<div>PLACEMENT PCC/LFH/LGH: _____ _____ NREFM: _____ _____ RELATIVE: _____ _____ PARENT: _____ _____</div>	<div>VISITATION SCHEDULE Supervised: _____ _____ Unsupervised: _____ _____ ON/Weekend: _____ _____ Placement: _____ _____</div>	<div>Does any party have any special needs? Regional Center? GAL? Medical appointments/conditions?</div>

Substance Abuse Treatment

Name of Program:  
Counselor Name:  
Phone Number:  
Address:  
Approximate dates seen:

Therapist

Name:  
Phone Number:  
Address:  
Approximate dates seen:

Psychiatrist

Name:  
Phone Number:  
Address:  
Approximate dates seen:

Domestic Violence Program

Name of Program:  
Counselor Name:  
Phone Number:  
Address:  
Approximate dates seen:

Anger Management

Name of Program:  
Counselor Name:  
Phone Number:  
Address:  
Approximate dates seen:

Parenting Class

Name of Program:  
Instructor Name:  
Phone Number:  
Address:  
Approximate dates seen:

### Additional Information

1. Current employment \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Current living situation (include where you live, who lives with you and the number of bedrooms you currently have)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Visits (How often do you see your child, where do you see your child, and how long is each visit. Also include information regarding phone calls.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# TELEPHONE LOG

<b>Child's Name:</b>	<b>Case Number:</b>
<b>Parent's Name:</b>	<b>Foster Parent:</b>

[illegible]

## LETTER LOG

<b>Child's Name:</b>	<b>Case Number:</b>
<b>Parent's Name:</b>	<b>Foster Parent:</b>

[illegible]

### While You Are Away

1. Call as often as possible. Some foster parents have rules, try not to interrupt meals, homework time or bed time. Many short calls are better than one long call. Young children tend to have a short attention span and lose interest easily.
2. Write at least once a week!! Children who cannot read love pictures with happy faces, trees, sunshine etc. and a comment like, "You make me feel happy." Every child loves to get mail.
3. Ask open ended questions. Stay away from have you been good or are you being good, you do not want them to start to think that is what determines whether or not you love them. Ask questions such as, "what is your favorite color?", "what did you have for lunch?", "who are your friends at school, who is your best friend?", "what is your favorite TV show?", "what is your favorite book?", favorite color, type of ice cream
4. Do not promise anything you are not sure of? Do not promise that you will live together again? Do not discuss where the children will be living in the future, in almost every case the judge enters an order to not discuss the case with your child, that includes timelines for return.
5. Tell the truth, it is better to say nothing than to be untruthful. You can often avoid details by telling children that you are going to classes or school to learn how to be a better parent.

Remember it is your responsibility to prove that you can be a good parent. You must prove you made the effort. It helps to:

1. Keep a list of dates and times of phone calls. This will show the judge you tried.
2. Write each letter twice, or copy the first one, so you can show the judge the letters.
3. If you are concerned that the child is not getting your letters you can send them directly to your attorney who can copy them and forward them.



## AA/NA Support Group Sign-In Sheet

[illegible]

## Visit Log

[illegible]

## Case Plan/Activity Log

[illegible]

## Phone Log

[illegible]

## Sent Letter Log

[illegible]

## LOG FOR CHILD VISITS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Scheduled Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Who was there?

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Summarize Visit:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Scheduled Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Who was there?

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Summarize Visit:

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