

Dear Appellant:

I have been appointed by the Court of Appeal to represent you in the appeal which you filed from a recent order or judgment of the juvenile court.

Over the next few weeks, I will begin to familiarize myself with your case by reviewing documents and transcripts from the proceedings which took place in the juvenile court. I will also discuss the case and the juvenile court's decision with your trial attorney. You too can help me secure a better understanding of the case by communicating with me about your concerns with the proceedings in the juvenile court, and with the juvenile court's order or judgment. Your impressions and insights concerning the juvenile court proceedings and judgment may help me identify problems with the proceedings or judgment which can be argued on your behalf in the appeal.

I have included with this letter an information pamphlet which discusses the appeal process. The proceedings in an appeal to the Court of Appeal are very different from the proceedings that take place in the juvenile court. As a reviewing court, the Court of Appeal reviews the proceedings that have already taken place in the juvenile court for prejudicial errors made in those proceedings, or in the juvenile court's findings and orders. The Court of Appeal ordinarily does not receive new evidence during the appeal. My job, as your attorney in the appeal, is to identify errors in the proceedings and/or the findings and orders of the juvenile court which can be argued to your benefit in the appeal, and to explain those errors to the Court of Appeal. I will do this initially in a written brief referred to as the "Appellant's Opening Brief." To see how the appeal process will unfold after the Appellant's Opening Brief is filed, please review the enclosed information pamphlet.

It is critically important that I have a current mailing address for you at all times during the appeal. When briefs and documents are presented to the Court of Appeal, I will send copies to you for your information. I may also write to you from time to time to provide updates on the status and progress of the appeal. And, when the Court of Appeal issues its decision in the appeal, I will send a copy of the Court's opinion to you so you will be able to see how the Court arrived at its decision. I will not be able to get this important information to you if your address changes and you have not provided the new mailing address to me. So, if at any time during the appeal, your mailing address changes, please provide the new mailing address to me immediately. Similarly, if I have a telephone number for you, and that telephone number changes, please let me know that promptly.

I look forward to working on your appeal. I will contact you again after completing my initial review of the documents and transcripts included in the juvenile court record to discuss with you my preliminary conclusions regarding the appeal. In the meantime, you should feel free to call or write me with your questions regarding the appeal process, and your concerns with the juvenile

court proceedings and judgment.

Sincerely,

Panel Attorney

encl. (general info dep appeals)