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Director of State Courts Office  
A. John Voelker, Director  
16E Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 1688  
Madison, WI 53701-1688

Dear Mr. Voelker:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Legislative Council's Special Committee on Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights Laws, which I chair. The committee has been meeting since August 2004 and will be concluding its deliberations in the near future.

One of the issues that has been discussed at length by the committee is how to expedite the termination of parental rights (TPR) process while preserving the rights of the parties involved to the greatest extent possible. To that end, the committee has recommended that a person subject to TPR proceedings be advised of appeal time limits. In addition, the person should be required to indicate whether the person intends to pursue an appeal.

To facilitate this process, the committee requests that the Records Management Committee of the Director of State Courts Office create a form that would advise a person subject to TPR proceedings of the appeal time limits. The person would be required to indicate on the form, at the time that the final judgment is entered, whether the person intends to pursue an appeal. For your information, the committee is considering statutory language that would create an obligation for the court to advise the person of the appeal time limits in TPR proceedings, and to require the person's counsel to complete and file the form on the date the judgment is entered.

We would appreciate it if you could forward this request to the Records Management Committee for their consideration. We look forward to the Record Management Committee's response to this request.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz  
Chair, Special Committee on Adoption and  
Termination of Parental Rights Laws

SJ:tlu