

## **Notice to Parents and Interested Parties of Motion to Amend Complaint**

The Division of Child Protection and Permanency has requested, by way of a Motion to Amend Complaint, that the court designate a particular caregiver as the Kinship Legal Guardian for the minor child who is listed in the Motion to Amend. If the court orders this person to serve as the Kinship Legal Guardian they will assume responsibility for this child and serve as this child's parental figure in many important ways including the right to:

- make decisions concerning the child's care and well being
- consenting to routine and emergency medical and mental health needs
- arrange and consenting to educational plans for the child
- apply for financial assistance and social services for which the child is eligible
- apply for a motor vehicle operators license
- apply for admission to college
- be responsible for activities necessary to ensure the child's safety, permanency and well being

**Note:** The court may also order the guardian to assume other responsibilities as appropriate.

The birth parent of the child keeps the authority to consent to the adoption of the child or name change for the child. The court may provide for an order permitting visitation or parenting time between the birth parent and the child. **An award of Kinship Legal Guardianship does not relieve a birth parent of the responsibility to pay child support and to provide other support for the child if ordered by the court.**

In making this decision the court will consider your wishes and desires in this matter. The court has scheduled a hearing in this case on the date that is specified in the enclosed motion. If you have any interest or a position concerning this application you should appear at the court hearing. In addition to appearing at the hearing, you may bring a written response for the court. **If you do not appear or contact the court, the Judge may enter an order granting this relief.**

If you want to appear but cannot on this date, or if you have any other questions please call "[insert court contact] ." A parent has the right, but is not required, to obtain a lawyer to help in this matter. A parent who is unable to afford an attorney will be given an opportunity to apply for legal counsel through the Public Defender's Office.