

Advisory Notice for Parents and Counsel When Parental Rights are Terminated

This court has entered an order terminating your parental rights and relationship with your child(ren). **You have 21 days in which to appeal this decision.**

If you wish to appeal and you were represented by the Office of the Public Defender, you will continue to be represented by the Office of the Public Defender, although a new attorney may be assigned for the appeal.

If you were represented by retained counsel in this proceeding -- that is, by an attorney who you paid -- and you cannot afford to pay for an attorney for your appeal, you may apply to the court to see if you qualify for the services of the Public Defender. If the court finds that you are indigent, your case will be referred to the Office of the Public Defender, which will then assign an attorney to represent you in your appeal.

If the Public Defender does assign an attorney to represent you in your appeal, the attorney who represented you at trial must cooperate with the Public Defender to see that all evidence and other relevant materials in your case are transferred to the Public Defender, Office of Parental Representation, P.O. Box 850, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0850 for the preparation of your appeal.

Your attorney will be able to explain in more detail how you can exercise your right to appeal. Please acknowledge on the record that you understand that you have the right to appeal the determination in this matter.

Any post-judgment motions filed with the trial court that are not related to the merits of your appeal will not toll the time for submissions to the Appellate Division.

NOTE TO PARENT'S ATTORNEY(S): If your client did not appear on the date this decision was rendered, the court directs you to provide your client with a copy of the judgment and this notice within five business (5) days of the date of the judgment.