

INDIANA YOUTH,

Imagine you're driving down the road on the way to the mall. Music is playing, your friends are laughing and you see a stoplight. You stop at the red light. The light turns green and you move into the intersection. You hear a crash and feel pain. The car is spinning.

You wake up three months later in the hospital. A truck ran the red light and totaled your car. You've been in a coma with a serious head injury for three months. While you were in a coma, you wonder:

- Who made medical decisions for you?
- Who filed insurance documents?
- Who picked up your paycheck from work?
- Who took care of your cell phone?

Think of all the decisions that would need to be made if you were in a coma for three months.

If you don't appoint someone to make these decisions, your biological next of kin will be asked to make these decisions for you. Even if the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) has been finalized, a biological parent can easily prove the relationship.

If you would like to have a different legal adult appointed to make these decisions for you, please read and fill out the enclosed forms. The critical parts of the form are highlighted for you. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) provides certain healthcare decision forms. DCS cannot, however, give any legal advice to the children under its care. If you need help filling them out, have a question, or want advice on this important decision, please contact:

- Your local bar associations that provide legal services for free or at a reduced cost. You can find your local bar association [here](#).
- Indiana Legal Services (ILS). ILS provides legal services to low-income individuals. You can contact Indiana Legal Services by calling their toll-free Intake Line at 800-869-0212.
- Your case manager to request the judge to appoint a public defender to discuss these forms and answer any questions at your next court hearing.

Thank you for changing your future,

Kimmy H., former DCS foster youth