



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Eric Miller, Director

"Children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities."

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call the Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at (800) 800-5556.

Dear Indiana Youth:

Please read the following story and answer the question of what you would do in this important situation.

You are 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 have been in a coma with a serious head injury for three months. While you were in a coma, 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 do not appoint someone to make these decisions, your biological (birth) next of kin (a spouse, a birth parent, or an older sibling) 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 biological 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. If you need help filling them out, have a question, or want advice on this important decision, please contact:

Where to find help with questions related to the attached forms.

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) provides certain healthcare decision forms for your use as you see fit. DCS cannot, however, give any legal advice to the children under its care. Consider seeking legal advice on the content of these forms or how to complete the forms. If so, many local communities have bar associations that provide legal services for free or at a reduced cost. You can find a local bar association by pointing your web browser to the following link:

<http://www.indianajustice.org/Home/PublicWeb/LegalSvcs>. You can search the State of Indiana's bar associations by county or city. You can also contact Indiana Legal Services (ILS). ILS provides legal services to low-income individuals. You can contact Indiana Legal Services by calling their Intake Line at (800) 869-0212. This is a toll-free call.

Another option is to ask 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.

Alums of the Department of Children's Services

