

## **NOTICE TO PARENTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES OF COMPLAINT FOR KINSHIP LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP**

The person making this application has requested that the court designate him/her as the Kinship Legal Guardian for the minor child who is listed in the complaint. 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
- consent to routine and emergency medical and mental health needs
- arrange and consent to educational plans for the child
- apply for financial assistance and social services for which the child is eligible
- apply for a motor vehicle operator's 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 notice. If you have any interest or a position concerning this application, you should appear at the court hearing. You may, but are not required to, send a written response for the court to consider in addition to appearing at the hearing. **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]." You have the right, but are not required, to obtain a lawyer to help you in this matter. If you need an attorney, you may contact the lawyer referral service of your local Bar Association or the office of Legal Services of New Jersey "[insert local LSNJ #]."