

RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS
(Child Protection – Plea)

A petition alleging Child Abuse/Neglect has been filed alleging that you have abused and/or neglected your child(ren). By signing this document you will be acknowledging that you have been provided with a copy of the petition, have been advised of the allegation(s) lodged against you, and have been informed who is making the allegation(s) against you.

You have the right to retain an attorney to represent you at any hearing conducted under the Child Protection Law.

You have a right to a court-appointed attorney at public expense if you are financially unable to retain an attorney. You must submit a financial statement to the court to determine whether you are eligible for a court-appointed attorney.

If you are not represented by an attorney, you may retain your own attorney or request and receive a court-appointed attorney at any later hearing.

If you enter a plea and your plea is accepted, you will be giving up the following rights:

- (1) The right to have a trial by a judge or trial by a jury;
- (2) The right to have the petitioner prove the allegation(s) in the petition by a preponderance of the evidence;
- (3) The right to have witnesses against you appear in court and testify under oath at the trial;
- (4) The right to cross-examine witnesses; and
- (5) The right to have the court subpoena any witnesses you believe could give testimony in your favor.

If you are a respondent parent, your plea can later be used as evidence in a proceeding to terminate your parental rights.

Finally, your matter has been conducted before an Attorney Referee. As such, you have the right to file, within seven (7) days after this hearing, a written request for a review by a judge, of the conclusions and recommendations I will make today.

Date: _____

Respondent

Attorney

Respondent

Attorney

I read this form to the respondent(s) and they had an opportunity to read it and ask questions regarding its content, before any acknowledgment.

Referee