

[LETTERHEAD]

Dear *[client name]*,

As I explained in an earlier letter, I've been appointed as your appellate attorney. I have finished reviewing the record in your case, and so far I am unable to identify any legally arguable issue to raise in the appeal. I have asked an attorney at Appellate Defenders, Inc., to review the record for possible issues. I certainly hope the attorney will find something, because I would like to help you.

If the ADI attorney and I cannot find any issue after this additional review, I will file a *Sade C.* letter brief. That title refers to the California Supreme Court case of *In re Sade C.* (1996) 13 Cal.4th 952, which directed how to deal with dependency appeals in which counsel cannot find any arguable issues. Another important Supreme Court case on the topic of no-issue briefs you may have heard of is *In re Phoenix H.* (2009) 47 Cal.4th 835.

If you are interested in filing a brief or letter of your own, you should let me know right away and start working on it right away. It is important to file any brief or letter of your own at the same time I file my *Sade C.* letter brief, because the court's general policy is to dismiss the appeal when it receives a *Sade C.* letter brief. Once the court dismisses the case, it has only 30 days before it loses the power over the case altogether. **I need to get your letter or brief by *[date]*.** *[A few days in advance of brief due date.]*

If you think you are going to need a little more time, let me know as soon as possible, and I'll try to get a later deadline. But the court is legally required to give top priority to handling cases of this kind, and so it can be difficult to get extra time.

The court does not have to accept your brief or letter, but it has the power to do that if it wishes. The point of your brief or letter would be to persuade the court there is an arguable issue or issues it should consider. If the court agrees there is such an issue, it then should order me, as your attorney, to brief it.

I have included [the record on appeal and] a draft of a possible *Sade C.* letter brief to help you in preparing your letter or brief.