*[Letterhead]*

*[Date]*

**ATTORNEY-CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION**

*[Name of Client]*

*[Address]*

 *Re: In re [child’s initials] [Specific county and agency]* v. *[client initials] [mother/father/(specify)]* Court of Appeal No. *[number]*

Dear *[Name of Client]*,

As you know, I have been appointed as your appellate attorney for this appeal. I reviewed the record in your case and unfortunately, I am unable to identify any legally arguable issue to raise in the appeal. Court policy requires a second attorney to review the record, and I have asked a staff attorney at Appellate Defenders, Inc., (ADI) to conduct the review.

*[Insert analysis of the issues considered and why they cannot be raised in this appeal either here or in another letter/email to the client.]*

Because the ADI attorney and I did not find any arguable 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 determined 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 is *In re Phoenix H.* (2009) 47 Cal.4th 835.

In my letter brief, I will ask the Court to permit you to file your own supplemental brief if you choose. The Court of Appeal has the discretion to grant or deny this request. The point of your own brief 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 will order me, as your attorney, to brief it. This means writing an argument, supported by statutory and case law, to demonstrate the trial court made an error in its decision.

**If you are interested in filing a supplemental brief of your own, please let me know right away so that I can assist you.** It may be in the form of a letter, and it is important to file it at the same time as 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. The *Sade C*. letter brief is due *[date].* **I must receive your supplemental brief by** *[date - a few days before the AOB due date]* so that I may file it with my brief*.*

I have included the record on appeal and a copy of my *Sade C*. letter brief to help you with preparing your own. You must include the case number *[case number]*on all documents. I know this is not the outcome you were hoping for. I am available to discuss this matter if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*[Name of Attorney]*