

HOW TO GIVE YOUR FRIEND OR RELATIVE TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD

Sometimes you might want a friend or your mother or father to watch your child for you. Perhaps you might be going away for a short vacation or to go to school.

You do not need to go to court to permit someone else to watch your child temporarily. You also do not need to have a lawyer draw up papers. You simply need to write a letter to the person who will be supervising your child, given them permission to get medical care for your child or to register the child in school. See Sample Letter 1.

January 5, 1995

Mary Friend
101 Anywhere Street
Charleston, WV 25314

Dear Mary:

You have my permission to care for my child, name of your child, temporarily, from date to until date while reason you are letting this person temporarily care for your child.

During this time, you have my permission to administer any (emergency) medical treatment necessary for my child.

Sincerely,
Your Name

Sample Letter 1

YOU SHOULD NOT SIGN ANYTHING ELSE

If you do not want your absence to affect your rights as a parent, you should only let your child stay with your friend or relative for a short period of time (less than three months). During this time, it is VERY important for you to:

1. Visit your child as often as possible;
2. Write letters to your child at least once every week;
3. Speak on the telephone with your child at least 1-2 times per week;
4. Provide money for your child's support.

These simple steps can help you to ensure that your child has a short and safe visit with your relative or friend. If your relative or friend refuses to return your child, you should immediately contact a lawyer.

WARNING: The Legal Aid Society of Charleston does not advise or recommend transferring custody of minor children. This statement would not require the person to return the child to you.