

EXHIBIT A

This Notice may affect you. Please read carefully.

TO ALL CHILDREN WHO ARE IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DUE TO A REPORT OR SUSPICION OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT:

This notice concerns the approval of a settlement regarding attorneys' fees and expenses relating to the class action lawsuit that concerns the Rhode Island foster care system, *Andrew C. v. Raimondo*, No. 1:07-cv-00241, before federal Chief Judge William E. Smith. A previous settlement of the claims in this case was preliminarily approved on January 11, 2018.

Because this case is a federal civil rights case, Plaintiffs' counsel can recover attorneys' fees and costs. This notice is to let you know that the Parties to this case have reached a proposed settlement of Plaintiffs' claim for the recovery of attorneys' fees and expenses in the amount of \$3,400,000.00. The sole purpose of this notice is to inform you of this settlement and your right to submit comments about it.

If you are a child in the legal custody of DCYF due to a report or suspicion of abuse or neglect, you have the right to review the unopposed motion for approval of negotiated attorneys' fees and expenses and, if you choose, you may submit written comments to tell the court what you think about this settlement before the court decides to approve the settlement, or not. You are not required to provide any comments to the court.

For a full description of the settlement entered in this case, a copy of the unopposed motion for approval of the settlement of the attorneys' fees and expenses, and other information about this case, you can visit: www.childrensrights.org or www.dcyf.ri.gov. If a computer is not available, please call DCYF at (401) 528-5371 and ask for Mary Simas. For any other questions, please contact Children's Rights at DCYFsettlement@childrensrights.org or DCYF at dcyf.webmaster@dcyf.ri.gov.

Class members or their legal representatives may submit written comments about the settlement of attorneys' fees and expenses to Plaintiffs' counsel, if postmarked on or before April 9, 2018. To submit comments, Class members or their legal representatives must send or deliver a signed letter, including a printed name, address, and telephone number, addressed to:

Children's Rights
Attn: Sara M. Bartosz, Esq.
88 Pine Street, Suite 800
New York, NY 10005

Class counsel will share your written letter with Defendants' counsel within five days of receipt and the parties will share any written submissions with the Court by April 24, 2018.

****PLEASE DO NOT CALL JUDGE WILLIAM E. SMITH OR THE CLERK OF THE COURT.**** They will not be able to answer your questions about the class action lawsuit or the Settlement Agreement.