

## **NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE GOVERNOR'S BLUE-RIBBON COMMISSION ON FORENSIC CUSTODY EVALUATIONS LISTENING SESSIONS**

**By submitting a written statement, or by going forward with appearing at a listening session, you agree that you have read the information below, that you understand it, and that you still wish to participate or send a written statement.**

- This session is/will be open to the public.
- If you choose to participate in the listening session by making an oral statement, please note that your name and image may be visible to the public. Attendees and participants at either listening session should be aware that these sessions are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.
- **If you have a case currently in court, and are represented by a lawyer, you should consult with your lawyer before speaking or sending a written statement in order to determine if this will affect your case, or could have an impact on future cases you may be involved in. If you do not have a lawyer, you may wish to consult with a legal assistance organization that provides free consultations before deciding whether to participate.**
- You may choose to submit a written statement anonymously and if you would like to do so, please note that you do not wish to have your name used when you send in the statement. The Commission will make all efforts to ensure your name remains confidential but cannot guarantee someone will not be able to determine who submitted it. If you do wish to remain anonymous, you are advised to avoid including any identifying details such as the county the case is/was in, names of judges or evaluators, or any similar information, in your statement.
- **If you have serious concerns regarding your safety, the safety of your children, or any possible impact on current or future court cases, please understand that if you appear in person, submit a statement, or even submit a written statement anonymously there is always a possibility that the information could become accessible to someone who could use it to harm you or your legal case.**
- Specific information regarding names, counties, evaluators, judges, and similar information will not be included in the Blue-Ribbon Commission's report and recommendations to the Governor.
- If you freely choose to participate in the listening session, by speaking or submitting a written statement, neither the Blue-Ribbon Commission, its members, nor the State of New York are responsible if your participation has a negative effect on your pending case or any future case.