



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Select Committee on Children Public Hearing
February 23, 2010**

**Senate Bill 53, An Act Requiring The Department Of Children And Families To
Notify Noncustodial Parents Of Certain Abuse
And Neglect Investigations**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on *Senate Bill 53, An Act Requiring the Department of Children and Families to Notify Noncustodial Parents of Certain Abuse and Neglect Investigations*. This bill would require the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide notification of abuse and neglect investigations to a noncustodial parent, regardless of DCF's determination as to whether notification would be in the best interests of the child. The Judicial Branch has concerns with the bill as drafted.

While the Branch takes no position on the general concept of notification to noncustodial parents, we would respectfully suggest that the bill should contain an exception for circumstances where consideration should be given as to whether notification is in the best interests of the child. For example, in instances where a no contact order between the noncustodial parent and the child exists, where there is a court judgment not permitting the noncustodial parent to visit the child, or where there have been allegations or instances of domestic violence, notification might not always be in the best interests of the child.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.