**Right to Counsel and Attendance at Court Hearings**

To the Bridges Liaison:

A Bridges liaison who is unable to obtain a young adult’s signature on the waiver form through any other means must read the below explanation of rights to the young adult, receive acknowledgment (verbally or through other means) that the young adult understands their rights, and sign below to indicate the young adult’s wishes. Please return the signed copy to a Bridges attorney.

To the Bridges Participant:

As a participant in the Bridges program you have the right to attend your court hearings and to request the help of an attorney. You will have the opportunity to be heard and participate in decisions regarding your services and living arrangements.

1. Right to Attend Hearings

You have the right to attend all of your Bridges hearings. If you cannot attend in person you may request to attend by phone or videoconference. You can also write a letter to the court explaining any thoughts or concerns you may have that will be read at the hearing. Please let your liaison know if you would like to attend your hearing in person or if you would like to attend through another method.

1. Right to Request an Attorney

You also have the right to be represented by an attorney at your Bridges hearings. If you cannot afford an attorney, you have the right to request that an attorney be appointed for you at no cost. Your liaison can help you fill out the application to request an attorney if you choose to request one. Please be aware that this attorney can represent you at Bridges hearings only and cannot assist with any other legal matters you may have. If you have legal needs related to non-Bridges matters, please let your liaison know and they can connect you with Legal Aid resources. If you choose not to request an attorney at this time, you can request one at any point in the future. This right does not go away.

If at all possible, your liaison will have you sign a waiver that indicates whether you will attend your hearing and whether you would like to request an attorney. However, if that is not possible, this notice serves to inform you of those rights and encourages you to make an informed decision about your appearance at your hearings and your right to request counsel. Even if you choose not to attend your hearing or request counsel, please let your liaison know if you have any concerns or questions about the court process.

The Bridges Participant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name) has been read the statements above and has chosen:

□ To attend court □ Not to attend court

□ To request counsel □ Not to request counsel

Signature Date

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