



NCLL

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY
CENTER FOR HOMESCHOOL LIBERTY

ILLINOIS 2013



National Center for Life and Liberty
www.NCLL.org

Sample Homeschool Letter of Withdrawal

If your child is currently in public or private school, this letter will formally withdraw them from Illinois's education system. We suggest that you submit your letter of withdrawal by: (1) Mail via postal service with a return receipt requested or (2) Hand delivery to the child's current school. If you are enrolling your child in a church-related school—provide the school's information in the blank area at the bottom of the form.

Courtesy Letter of Withdrawal from an Illinois Public School to Homeschool

Printed Name(s) of Parent(s) and Address:

Name(s) of child(ren) being withdrawn from public school:

Dear Principal _____:

Please be advised that I will be withdrawing the above children from your school as of _____, when they will be privately schooled.

If you have any questions, please send them to me in writing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

When Legal Challenges Present Themselves . . .

- Calmly find out, know, and follow your state’s laws. State summaries are available at our website and we are always available to answer your questions.
- As you teach your children at home, know that you’re a “walking advertisement” for homeschooling. Our relatives, neighbors, and others we encounter are watching. It’s a good idea to watch your outside activities during school hours. Try to share some homeschool highlights with your relatives so they might be won over. Also, avoid disciplining your child in public because understandings of what is appropriate vary.
- Leaving children at home alone is always risky—especially if you frequently leave older children home alone with younger children. Is there an appropriate age when it is okay to leave them alone? Consider calling your local social services agency to ask its opinion.

Above all—be calm, polite, respectful, and know your rights.

If You Receive a Phone Call . . .

1. If a homeschooler gets a phone call from someone representing themselves as a school or social services authority—**never give information over the phone!** Make it your goal to **get** information from the caller. Ask what has prompted this call, the caller’s name, telephone number, title, and the agency they represent. Give yourself time to calm down and consider the request. Tell the caller that you will either get back to them or that your attorney will get back to them. Above everything—keep calm as this initial call can set the tone for the entire encounter.
2. If the caller wishes to arrange a meeting, and you agree to meet, allow yourself plenty of calendar time between the day of the call and the day of a future meeting. You will want to decide on a strategy and/or consult an attorney. If you agree to meet, arrange to meet in the official’s office and definitely not in your home.

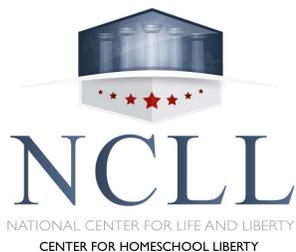
If You Receive a Letter in the Mail . . .

1. Read the letter slowly and carefully. Make sure that you know what is being asked of you, and take the time to discern who is asking. If the request is clear and unambiguous (such as asking for a copy of a birth certificate, and the law clearly specifies that it is required) it may be best to comply. Before supplying any information, either by mail or in person, verify the authenticity of the person and the agency making the request, as well as the necessity for the information.

2. If the request is at all questionable, take time to study the issue and consult your attorney. If it means that you need more time, write or call the sender to say that you'll need more time.
3. Remember, if you mail anything or bring anything to an official's office, keep copies of what you mailed or brought, for your files. If you decide to mail any items, mail them return-receipt requested. This documentation from the Post Office means you will receive proof that the letter you sent was signed for and received.
4. An electronic or e-mail notification is not sufficient legal notice to notify you of a legal challenge. Do not reply to an electronic notification of a legal challenge without seeking legal advice.

If You Receive a Visitor at Your Door . . .

1. First, you are entitled to know the reason for any visit. The visitor may tell you they do not have to tell you the reason, or they may tell you that they need to come inside of your home to talk to you. **Neither of these is true!** Government officials are required to tell you the specific allegations that led to their visit.
2. Be polite and ask for a business card or an ID badge. If the visitor wants to enter the home, ask if they have a search warrant. Without a warrant, they have no legal authority to enter your home. Getting a warrant is not an easy task for a government official. The official will have to demonstrate to a judge that they have "probable cause" to believe that either (1) a crime has been committed or that (2) some other compelling reason exists for the agency to enter your home to investigate. That requires much more than an anonymous tip or mere suspicion. Remember—no warrant, no entry!
3. Be calm! If you have a local lawyer or are a member of the Center for Homeschool Liberty, call your attorney on the phone while the visitor is still at your door. Then, hand the phone over to the visitor and have your attorney do the talking for you.
4. Be respectful to the visitor, but also respect yourself and your family. If the visitor insists on seeing your children, bring the children outside the door. Allowing an official inside gives them too great of an opportunity to go on a "fishing expedition." The visitor may request immediate answers to one or more questions, but tell them you that will speak to them only after you have consulted with your legal counsel.
5. The visitor may threaten to obtain a warrant. Don't be frightened by this. Of course, you will fully cooperate if they return and show you the warrant—but chances are that they are merely trying to frighten you. Don't be frightened, but seek legal counsel immediately.



National Center for Life and Liberty
P.O. Box 12827
St. Petersburg, FL 33733
888-233-NCLL (888-233-6255)

Dear Fellow Homeschooler,

It is a blessing and a privilege to be of service to you. The Center for Homeschool Liberty (CHL) is a ministry to homeschool families and operates as an outreach of the National Center for Life and Liberty—a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Center for Homeschool Liberty (formerly known as Homeschool Legal Advantage) is specifically dedicated to serving homeschool families. With this objective, CHL was launched in 2009 as a critical resource for today's homeschooling family. We have been gratified and humbled at the outpouring of acceptance and support we have received.

You are entitled to a free first-year membership in CHL. Our heart is to serve today's homeschooling family. Other organizations require an "application" process and require you to follow defined rules. CHL simply invites you to complete a simple "registration" process in order to join. We do not want to control your homeschooling efforts; we are here to provide you with information, encouragement, and support as you diligently homeschool your children.

We are pleased to be able to offer you an exciting benefit along with your first-year membership: CHL offers our first-year members a complimentary Last Will and Testament. Most young parents do not have a will, and it is estimated that as many as two-thirds of adults do not have a will. Consequently, CHL provides a great (optional) value-added benefit of membership to our first-time families as a part of our commitment to honor the family's decisions both now and the future. Please ask us for more information about this and the other membership benefits.

CHL attorneys and support staff are in place to serve your family! As a faith-based ministry, we give God all of the glory for the churches and individuals who have supported our ministry. CHL is a team of more than 200 committed attorneys that are strategically located across the nation and available to you and your family at a moment's notice. We are called of God and committed to serving you and your family!

Thank you for the privilege,

David C. Gibbs III
President and General Counsel
National Center for Life and Liberty

Standard Membership Benefits . . .

- When you join the Center for Homeschool Liberty, you are given the telephone number of an attorney who is available to answer any legal question related to homeschool issues.
- Center for Homeschool Liberty members receive all homeschool-related legal representation free of charge. CHL pays all attorney fees, expert witness costs, travel expenses, and court costs that are allowable by law.
- In addition, Center for Homeschool Liberty members receive free legal representation as a service of the National Center for Life and Liberty for religious liberty issues—even if the cause of action is not related to homeschooling. This includes matters such as workplace discrimination, Christian employer obligations, the right to share your faith, public prayer, and any other matter related to religious liberty issues.
- Most legal matters related to homeschooling and Christian liberty are resolved quickly without court action. Often, NCLL attorneys successfully defend an attack by contacting local officials on behalf of the NCLL member. If a court case is necessary, the Center For Homeschool Liberty provides full representation every step of the way. Members can take comfort in knowing that they enjoy full legal protection for homeschooling and Christian liberty issues.

Additional Membership Benefits . . .

- A Last Will and Testament—drafted by an attorney—that will thoughtfully outline your wishes for your children and distribute your estate to your heirs.
- Access to a comprehensive website with homeschool laws for your state, legal updates, and instructional videos to prepare you to counter legal problems.
- A regular email newsletter with legal updates and articles.

Illinois Homeschooling Requirements

<u>State Requirements</u>	
Compulsory Attendance	Between the ages of 7 and 17 years of age.
Source of Law	105 Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) 5/26-1 <i>et. seq.</i> (Private Schools/Compulsory Attendance) ILCS 5/27-1 (Subjects) ILCS 5/10-19 (Length of School Term)
Restrictions	Teacher certification not required.
Reporting	Registration is NOT required even if parents are asked to do so.
Record Keeping	None.
Requirements	Subjects should include the branches of education taught to children of corresponding age and grade in the public school and should be in English. Generally, these subjects are: Language Arts, Biological and Physical Science, Math, Social Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health and Physical Development. 176 days per year required for public schools, but not specifically mandated for private or home schools.
Testing	None.

Illinois State Department of Education: *See* <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/homeschool/default.htm>